

# THE GATEWAY

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**STARS OF THE SHOW** Dinwoodie Lounge was packed Sunday for Montreal indie group Stars' third show in Edmonton. One-man brass section Torquil Campbell lead the group through hits from their long-latest album, *Set Yourself on Fire*.

## SU unveils plans for 'Plant overhaul

Unlicensed coffee shop and all-you-can-eat buffet would join scaled-back bar in current space

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI  
News Staff

With a loss of more than \$100 000 looming for the PowerPlant this year and memories of profits long gone, the Students' Union Executive unveiled a plan for major changes to the campus bar at Students' Council on Tuesday night.

"It's not as hopeless as it looks on paper. There have been mistakes made, but we think that the demand is there and we just need to tap into that," said SU Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Jason Tobias.

The plan, which still needs budgetary approval by Council, would see a major overhaul in the way the space is currently used. It seeks to divide the building into three areas, only one of which would retain regular alcohol service. The current Dewey's portion would become a full-fledged coffee shop along the lines of Second Cup, add menu items and use the exterior entrance along the north side of the building.

The second division would be in the east part of the current bar space that would be transformed into an all-you-can-eat buffet, eliminating bar service. However, Tobias suggested to Council that the space would be available to students while the buffet was

closed, to be used as an area to study or be added to the licensed part of the venue for concerts and other special events.

Only the west portion of the space near the stage would continue to operate as a bar under this arrangement and, like the buffet section, it would be available to students as a study space when not operating. Tobias also suggested bar service only for this section of the Plant since the SU is looking to reduce the number of servers and change its operating hours in the hopes of shifting customers to RATT in low-demand periods like Monday and Tuesday nights.

"If you look at some of the numbers in 2004/05, the gross profit from sales has actually been on the rise, but it's our expenses that have been increasing in a way that we weren't able to control properly," said Tobias. "We've identified what those problems are and the things that we can change in our fixed cost structure and we've taken the steps to mitigate that damage, which is something we hadn't done before."

While Council wasn't asked to vote on anything, and will have to wait until the budget is introduced to get a firm sense of the cost, several councilors were positive about the proposal.

PLEASE SEE POWERPLANT PAGE 4

## UPEI halts student paper over Muslim cartoons

DAVE WEATHERALL  
CUP National Bureau Chief

TORONTO (CUP)—The University of Prince Edward Island has ordered the school's student newspaper—the *Cadre*—not to distribute its latest issue because it contains the controversial Muslim cartoons from Danish paper *Jyllands-Posten*.

The *Cadre* is believed to be the first English-language newspaper in Canada to publish the illustrations—according to a timeline on the CBC's website, the French-language newspaper *Le Devoir* re-published the illustrations on 3 February. The University administration said the justification for ordering the removal of the issues is that the cartoons have already caused enough uproar overseas.

Cadre Editor-in-Chief Ray Keating said the decision to re-publish the illustrations was not designed to stir

the controversy.

"We decided that it would be a disservice to our readers if we didn't run it with the editorial we wrote on the subject," said Keating.

Two thousand issues of the *Cadre* were delivered to the school's loading docks when Keating received word of the University's decision.

"I put all the copies in the back of my van so they wouldn't be seized or destroyed," said Keating.

The *Cadre* is planning to distribute the issues off-campus while they challenge the on-campus ban.

According to Peter Jacobson, a lawyer with Bersenas, Jacobson, Choest, Thomson and Blackburn who specializes in media law, publishing the cartoons is not a violation of copyright; however, whether it's covered under the protection of free speech is more complex.

"It's a risky venture," said Jacobson.

PLEASE SEE CADRE PAGE 5

## Council rejects health services fee hikes

Concerns over lack of info lead to rejection despite warnings of service cuts

JAKE TROUGHTON  
NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
News Staff

The future of the University Health Centre's services are in question after Students' Council rejected two proposed plebiscite questions on fee increases—increases that the Centre warned are necessary to avoid cuts to non-essential services.

Citing concerns about a lack of financial information from University Health Services (UHS) and a reluctance to increase student fees, a large majority of councilors at Tuesday's meeting voted against putting a question on the ballot seeking a \$6, or 24 per cent, per term increase in the Health Services fee next year and

further \$2 increases the following two years. A second question that would have sought a further \$2.50 increase to create an appointment system at the Centre was then withdrawn.

"We're looking at about \$200 000 in additional revenues from this fee increase, yet the cuts they're proposing add up to a minimum of \$400 000," Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Jason Tobias told Council.

"But we don't know exactly what the financial implications will be, because we haven't seen a financial statement," UHS director Dr. Don McNroy wasn't at Council for the decision, but speaking prior to the meeting, he warned that without the requested fee increase he would have to cut

non-essential services, beginning with the Peer Health Education program.

The elimination of the internationally renowned program, which has won a Capital Health award for innovation, would mean 30 students would lose their jobs.

"They do a tremendous amount of work on campus, [but] the reality is, I have to protect the core services," McNroy said.

"If our budget's getting hurt, I have to decide what goes and [the Peer Health Education program would be] the first thing. The second thing that would go at we go alone is we'd eat away at the [prescription drug] subsidies students are getting and move to market rates."

PLEASE SEE HEALTH PAGE 3

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## Watch your mouth, kid

What do parking tickets and Mosquito Coast have in common? Too much, if you're Harrison Ford.

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## Stepping out

After four years in Danielle Bourgeois' shadow, hockey Panda Kristen Hagg is making a name for herself.

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## THE GATEWAY

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Students' Union Building  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6G 2J7Telephone 780.492.5168  
Fax 780.492.6665  
E-mail gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

## editorial staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Daniel Kaszor  
edc@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.5168MANAGING EDITOR David Berry  
managing@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6664SENIOR NEWS EDITOR Jake Troughton  
news@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7308DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR Chloe Fedio  
deputynews@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6664OPINION EDITOR Tim Peppin  
opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6663ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Mike Larocque  
entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7052SPORTS EDITOR Chris O'Leary  
sports@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6652PHOTO EDITOR Matt Frehner  
photo@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6648DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR Iris Tse  
production@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6661

## business staff

BUSINESS MANAGER Steve Smith  
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE Patrick Ciolek  
sales@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6700AD GRAPHIC DESIGNER Lisa Lunin  
design@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6667CIRCULATION PAL Adam Gaumont  
circulation@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669CIRCULATION PAL Tyson Kabian  
circulation@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669THE GATEWAY is published by the  
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## contributors

from "Yeni" Pruskiwicz, Paul Owen, Dana Komperdo, Amanda Aish, Reid Buckmaster, David Palmer, Patrick Ross, Curtis Van Marck, Scott C. Bowers, Mike Robertson, Shuan Lyons, Brad Sims, Robin Saxons, Chris Jung, Paul Cartledge, Mylene Perna, Scott Lilwall, Adam Gaumont, Mike Kendrick, Phil Head, Leanne Fong, Nick Weller, Neal Widdling, Jeffrey Greenias, Mike Otis and Pete Vane.

## UASUS fee proposal rejected by Council again

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Senior News Editor

For the second week in a row, Students' Council has rejected a proposed referendum on the installation of a faculty association membership fee (RAMF) for Science students.

The University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Society (UASUS) put forward an amended proposal on Tuesday in hopes of addressing concerns councilors had expressed in the previous meeting. They had little success, however, and Council overwhelmingly rejected the new proposal.

The vote means UASUS will likely be unable to institute the \$1 per term fee in time for next year, since the next Council meeting comes after the UASUS election, when the referendum for proposal was planned.

The primary area of concern amongst councilors was a perceived lack of a proper outline for allocation of funds for the fee. Several councilors also expressed concern that the proposal would have required Science students to renounce their UASUS membership in order to opt out of the fee.

"What's in this proposal is no better than what was in last week's proposal.

UASUS has still granted itself the authority to decide who gets money and who doesn't based on entirely subjective factors, with no detailed criteria provided to us as councilors," said Engineering Councilor James Crossman.

**"I just don't think we should be supporting free cookies and muffins with a \$2 [per year] fee."**JACK GORDON,  
SCIENCE COUNCILOR

"That means if UASUS decides that a certain departmental association has failed in its promotion and support of UASUS and the Faculty of Science, they can arbitrarily deny funding to that departmental association, and when Council asks them about it, they can say, 'It was in the proposal that you guys approved; deal with it!'"

Science Councilor Sylvia Shamanna, who introduced the motion to Council, noted that at present, the bulk of UASUS' funding comes from

locker rentals in V-Wing, and that source of revenue will disappear when the building is demolished in the fall. She argued that Council should give Science students the chance to vote on the proposed RAMF as a means of replacing and expanding on that lost revenue.

"It's not up to Council to be deciding whether or not we're in favour of the fee; it's not like we're saying, 'Council thinks you should vote in favour of it,'" she said.

But many councilors argued that it was important to ensure a faulty proposal wasn't put to students.

"I think we need to keep in mind that when we're lending our taxation authority to a faculty association, we have to be sufficiently assured that bad things aren't going to happen, and that there are sufficient controls in place," said Law Councilor Kyle Kawanami.

Speaking in favour of the proposal, Arts Councilor Blythe Morrow suggested that without the fee, UASUS would be unable to effectively conduct its business.

"For me, this fee means that UASUS is going to have to get students involved. ... It's about tackling the apathy that these large faculties have," she said. "If UASUS has a huge

portion of their money taken away from them, from locker sales, what are they going to be able to do?"

But Science Councilor Jack Gordon argued that, while RAMFs can be put to good use—citing the Business Students' Association's proposed fee, which will go to referendum—it would be irresponsible to allow one where that use is unclear.

"The ISA is going to be subsidizing students to go to conferences, and they're going to gain from going to those conferences," he said. "Whereas here, looking at the breakdown of this fee, all I see is parties, free pizza, lunch with the dean, prizes for head shaves, free cookies and muffins. I just don't think we should be supporting free cookies and muffins with a \$2 [per year] fee."

Crossman suggested that it would be better for UASUS to go without the fee for a year before coming back to Council.

"I don't think there's a big issue with asking UASUS to sit on this for a year and come up with a better proposal—draft more comprehensive documents, give us an idea of where the money is going to go, and give us an idea of how things like scholarships may be dispersed," he said.

## STREETERS

Phoenix Coyotes assistant coach Rick Tocchet has been accused of running an illegal gambling ring involving several NHL players and Wayne Gretzky's wife Janet, following a five-year investigation dubbed "Operation Slap Shot."

Is hockey dead to you?

Douglas Newby  
Arts IVCorey Der  
Arts IISteven Tannas  
Grad StudiesKerri Sway  
Arts III

I don't think it's dead to me, just because they weren't betting on hockey, they were betting on other sports.

I think I don't really like hockey that much anyway, but I really have no problem with people gambling or anything. I don't think it's really that bad, betting on it. Obviously it's illegal to bet on stuff like that ... right? Yeah, it is, isn't it? But I would have no problem betting on it. I bet on stuff all the time. I don't really know anything about them betting on it at all.

Hockey's not dead to me, but I think it's despicable that they'd get themselves involved in something like that when they should know already that it's important not to be involved in something like that. I think it's a conflict of interest and that they shouldn't be involved.

It's disappointing, especially since I've really liked Janet Gretzky since she was Janet Jones, so that was upsetting to hear too. I think hockey's survived worse and probably will survive this.

Compiled and photographed by Dana Komperdo and Scott Lilwall



don't get stuck waiting... get here early

# Health Centre waited too long to ask for fee increase, Tobias says

HEALTH • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

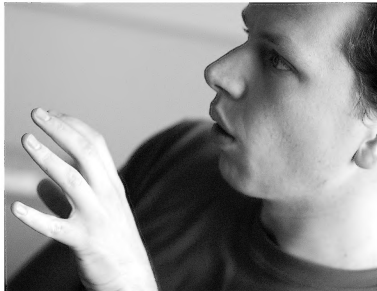
Council was also presented with a five-page letter from Arts student Mustafa Hirji, who criticized the proposed fee hike on six different grounds, including that only undergraduates pay a health services fee while staff and graduate students don't, and that the hike would have been much greater than the rate of inflation.

He also argued that charging a health services fee violates the spirit of Canada's public health system, that supporting it would contradict the SU's campaign against tuition hikes, and that it is a "sneaky" attempt to replace a temporary fee hike introduced in 1996 to pay for the Health Centre's mortgage. The SU believes that mortgage has been paid off since 1999 (though the University disagrees on the specific date), but the fee has remained in place, though it's expected to be removed soon. That led Hirji to classify the Health Centre as "untrustworthy" in his letter.

"It seems that the University Health Centre thinks that they can get away with trying to students and refusing to remove a fee they no longer should be collecting," he wrote.

McInroy acknowledged the financial strain students are under makes even a justifiable fee increase an unattractive proposition.

"It's the students' money and the money is tight. Council is going to have to make a decision in many ways where a limited amount of dollars will go," he said. "However, the decision that the students are going to be



FILE PHOTO: MATT FRESHER

**NOT SO FAST** SU Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Jason Tobias.

making will not only impact the students now, but down the road.

"I have no axe to grind on this," McInroy added. "What I'm doing is giving the students the information, and the students can decide what they want to do with the information."

Many councilors acknowledged that UHS is under financial strain and that the Health Centre is a benefit for campus, but in the end decided that it hadn't seen enough information to justify adding to students' fee burden.

"I don't doubt that UHS provides a whole suite of valuable services to students, but I don't see how we can even begin to consider approving this for potential approval by students,"

Tobias told Council. "We don't know exactly what we're approving, because we haven't seen the numbers yet."

Tobias also pointed to a letter sent to McInroy by the SU's Executive Committee, which criticized UHS for waiting until January to bring the fee proposal forward, leaving little time for Council's concerns to be addressed.

"Back in May, UHS indicated to us that it would be potentially necessary for them to come to Council with a proposal for a fee, yet at no point did they ever indicate what steps they would be taken, what sort of increase would be necessary, until literally the last minute at the end of January," Tobias said.

## COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Ross Prusakowski

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 28 February.

With more than a dozen high-school students' union leaders in the crowd and a midnight deadline to approve plebiscite questions in order to have them added to the ballot for March's general election, Tuesday was a busy night in Council Chambers.

### NOT SO SPECIAL

While Council was approving its agenda, Arts Councilor Michelle Kelly moved that her motion to censure President Graham Lettner be made a special order, to ensure that it would be dealt with on Tuesday. However, Speaker Gregory Harlow ruled that out of order, saying that because a censure is essentially "the legislative equivalent of a strongly worded letter," and has no legal effect, it's not a matter of such pressing importance that it had to be dealt with this week, and thus didn't qualify to be made a special order. Council will deal with the matter at its next meeting.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRESENTS

First, councilors were given a presentation by Students' Union with Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Jason Tobias who unveiled the new direction of the financially troubled PowerPlant (see story on page 1).

The next presentation displayed a delay of approximately ten minutes when technical difficulties arose with a projector. Once the projector was working, VP (External) Sam Power launched into a

talk about tuition, citing increases over the last two decades, that have coincided with funding cuts by the provincial government. She noted that during that period, the student to faculty ratio at the U of A has increased from 13-1 to 22-1, an indication of the decreasing quality of education. She also criticized the provincial government for failing to make any major policy announcements at last fall's A Learning Alberta forum.

Lettner continued, describing the fight against tuition increases on campus. He said the University's Board of Governors is currently considering a joint statement with the SU and the Graduate Students' Association—the "Lettner Protocol"—stressing the need to "lead the nation in sustainable funding for universities, quality of learning and discovery, and affordability for students."

### HIGH SCHOOLERS MISS OUT

After that, Council began a debate on a proposal by the University Health Centre to increase the student fee (see story on page 1).

It seemed that display of effectiveness from Council was enough for the high school students in attendance, with most of them departing after councilors derided the Health Centre fee. It was their loss, as they missed a rather contentious debate on a proposal from the University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Society (UASUS) to institute a Faculty Association Membership fee. While other faculty associations, like the Business Students' Association and the Engineering Students Society had their fees endorsed by Council with relatively little debate, the UASUS proposal received a rough ride for the second meeting in a row (see story on page 2).

### THE PACE QUICKENS

That concluded the special orders, and allowed Council to move on to other issues, including a one-time grant to the Elections Office for technology to

make counting the ballots in council elections go faster. In the same spirit of quickness, councilors then swiftly referred a bill to committee that proposed paying Chairs of council committees for their services.

### BRODY FUND SPARED

Things became bogged down on the next item of business, though, as Council considered a proposal to cease the collection of the Eugene I. Brody dedicated fee. The \$534 per term fee, which is currently distributed to charitable organizations after collection by the SU, is currently unused according to the Budget and Finance Committee, and, in their opinion, it isn't part of the SU's mandate. The latter point was the focus of Council's debate on the motion, and after a number of speeches on both sides of the issue the proposal to axe the fee was defeated.

### I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE

After dealing with a few other matters, including directing a committee to study how to get Augustana councilors to Edmonton for meetings, Council managed to finally make it to the final item on its agenda. However, Council was thwarted in its attempt to complete an agenda for the first time since the summer as it ran past its 10pm rental of Council Chambers and was kicked out by the Campus 5-0 officer in attendance.

### COUNCIL NOTES

• In his report to Council, Arts councilor and Audit Committee chair Bryce Krysta warned his successors on Audit Committee to be wary that some dedicated fee recipients were building up large reserves of money that they didn't have dedicated to a purpose. He suggested that if this pattern continues, Council should send the fees back to referendum since the reserves suggest the recipients don't need the money.

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## Powerplant Trivia

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FILE PHOTO: NICK WEBER

**BEER ME UP, BEER ME DOWN** The PowerPlant will still sell beer under newly unveiled plans, but only in one section.

## 'Plant needs the right 'balance,' Tobias

POWERPLANT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I think it's a good plan. I'm open to new ideas and I honestly think that any attempt to work to fix the PowerPlant is good," said Medicine and Dentistry Councillor Suneil Khanna.

"Right now [the 'Plant] doesn't do the business that we'd like, and I think that any new ideas that are brought to the table are definitely welcomed. But, we're going to have to be very careful about what we decide in the end."

Still, not everyone shared optimism about the proposal, and more than a few councillors brought up previous

attempts promising to revitalize the PowerPlant that ended in failure.

"I think the Executive has put a lot of thought and effort into it, and they're very sincere in their efforts to make changes," said Arts councillor and Audit Committee chair Bryce Kustra. "That said, I think there is perhaps still some concern about the investments that are being funneled in—we've heard it all before."

Kustra went on to say that though it's easy to criticize the proposal, there hasn't been anything better up to date. And given the number of suggestions made over the years, Tobias is confi-

dent that this plan will work out for the best.

"Any reader of the Gateway letters page will tell you there's a million different answers out there to what the PowerPlant needs to do, and some of them are infeasible, but some of them we can do," said Tobias.

"This is just something that we thought we could make the most people happy. There will be customers who say, 'This isn't for me. I'm going to go to RATT or somewhere else,' but this is the balance that we think can make the PowerPlant work."

# Changing THE FACE OF Democracy

A DIALOGUE WITH CITIZENS

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## Group kicks off two-week ideological battle at U of T

Zionist, Arab groups set for consecutive events

BRUCE HARPIM  
The Varsity

TORONTO (CUP)—Two politically charged events scheduled side by side at the University of Toronto by the Arab Students' Collective (ASC) and Betar Tagar, a Zionist activist group, are quickly gathering steam for what could become a full-blown campus confrontation.

The ASC is gearing up to present Israeli Apartheid Week next week, which created a furor on campus last year by comparing Israel's policies regarding Palestinians to South Africa's former apartheid policy. Know Radical Islam Week, Betar Tagar's series of events criticizing the extremes of Islamic fundamentalism, begins this week.

"We are trying to draw attention to the abuse of the religion of Islam by fundamentalists with their own selfish agendas," said Joshua Rosenblum, president of the U of T chapter of Betar Tagar.

Though the two groups are positioning their events to address somewhat different concerns, their timing and content make it hard not to see them in opposition to each other. During last year's Israeli Apartheid Week, members of Betar Tagar attempted to disrupt several ASC events, accusing the organizers of failing to sufficiently condemn terrorism.

Betar Tagar's antagonism toward the ASC's events is clear; a message on the group's website decries last year's Israeli Apartheid Week as "a series of hateful, anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic events."

The ASC, however, wants to prevent their event from being seen as opposed to Betar Tagar's. ASC spokesperson Ahmad Shuke declined to comment on Know Radical Islam Week, saying that the two events were not counterpoints.

"We don't feel that just by virtue of being an Arab group that we have to

reply to what Betar is doing," he said.

The situation is volatile enough that Deputy Provost of Students David Farrar forwarded a message to all identifiable groups last Thursday, warning that unnamed upcoming campus events "may raise troubling or even painful issues for members of our campus community." The statement reminded students that such events are both encouraged under University freedom of speech policies and subject to hate laws.

No matter how opposed Betar is to the ASC's events, Rosenblum explained that their events are meant to criticize a global problem, pointing to statements made by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad last October that the state of Israel was a "disgraceful blot" that should be "wiped off the map." He also expressed concern with the recent electoral victory of Hamas in the Palestinian parliament.

Betar Tagar's efforts are being aided by two somewhat unlikely groups: U of T's Secular Alliance and the U of T Objectivist Club, who are both known for their opposition to religious extremism. The Secular Alliance mounted a campaign against Sharia law in Ontario last September and they have generally been opposed to religion of any kind, which would technically include a Jewish group like Betar.

"These events are for the betterment of the university community, for the benefit of skeptical students who deserve to hear both sides of the issue," Rosenblum said. "We are concerned with opening dialogue."

Rosenblum explained that he has attempted to communicate with several campus Muslim groups, including the Muslim Students Association, the Alhamdiyya Muslim Students Association, and the ASC. Only ASC members responded, saying that they "looked forward to engaging in constructive debate."

## Defiant Cadre plans to distribute banned issue off-campus, online

CADRE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Section 319 (1) of the Criminal Code of Canada reads, "Every one who, by communicating statements in any public place, incites hatred against any identifiable group where such incitement is likely to lead to a breach of the peace is guilty of (a) an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years; or (b) an offence punishable on summary conviction."

Because of the mass protests the cartoons have already elicited throughout the Muslim world, Jacobsen said there's a possibility a newspaper that chose to re-publish them could be prosecuted and be found guilty.

"Obviously, this bumps right up against freedom of speech," said Jacobsen, who added that section 319 has withstood past legal challenges that it infringes on freedom of speech.

Meanwhile, the UPEI Students'

Union—which partly owns the Cadre—has come out in support of the University administration's decision to ban distribution of the issue on campus.

**"I'm not sure I've understood yet why you felt it was worthwhile doing."**

DON MATHESON,  
CTV NEWSNET HOST, TO CADRE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF RAY KEATING

Keating appeared in a one-on-one interview on CTV Newsnet where he was lambasted by host Don Matheson, who accused Keating of not having to "answer to good taste."

Matheson went on to say that major daily newspapers in Canada do attack

politicians, business leaders and entertainers, but they don't pick on the poor, the disenfranchised or people's religions because it's bad manners and it's not necessary.

"I'm not sure I've understood yet why you felt it was worthwhile doing," said Matheson.

After a lengthy meeting with UPEI's administration Wednesday afternoon, Keating said that initial concerns for his educational career were abated.

"They're sticking to their guns; they won't let us distribute it on campus," said Keating. "The woman who called me initially from the administration said it could threaten my educational career, [but] that has been shot down by the president," said Keating.

The PDF document of the issue has been taken down from the Cadre's website, but Keating said there are plans underway to mirror the site and make it available to all who wish to visit it.

## U of T student unions owe CFS \$500 000

ALLISON MARTELL  
The Varsity

TORONTO (CUP)—Student unions at the University of Toronto owe the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) more than half a million dollars in fees, according to a recent report.

The debt has brought up several issues, including students' ability to de-federate from the CFS, conflict within the CFS, and U of T's role in the student movement.

The CFS is a national organization that administers the health plan and lobbies federal and provincial governments on behalf of students. Students vote to join the CFS, and they can also vote to leave—unless they owe money.

With debt into five and six figures, it would be impossible for U of T's student unions to de-federate from the CFS for the next several years.

The financial problems started several years ago. Student unions are expected to remit fees, currently \$3.12 per student per semester. When U of T voted to join the CFS, it took the university administration some time to decide whether it would collect a levy to cover those fees.

Eventually, the administration began collecting the levy, but the student unions are still behind in their payments. And while Scarborough Campus Student Union (SCSU) said CFS agreed to write off the debt several years ago, Jesse Greener, Ontario Chairperson for the CFS, said that never happened.

"We all need to be playing a part," he said. "And that means... not starting the organization financially."

Getting the money means either cutting into SU budgets or, as the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) would prefer, fighting the administration. But

SCSU sees things differently.

"The CFS can either just forgive the debt in good faith, or we can continue on and go to the administration, invest plenty of time, [and] possibly need to pay legal fees again," said Rob Wulkan, VP External at SCSU.

But for CFS, it's a matter of principle.

"We do not want to allow the administrations to effectively decide whether or not they remit fees that students have legitimately requested, because that would allow the administration to decide whether or not they fund their opposition," said Greener.

The distribution of the debt also calls into question U of T's role in CFS.

"Look at this from the perspective of the Trents, Guelphs, and Lakeheads of the world," said Greener. "They effectively have been subsidizing the largest student unions in the country."

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# OPINION

opinion@gateway.alberta.ca • Thursday, February, 2006

## Blood safety more important than individual rights

A GROUP CALLING THEMSELVES the Second Cumming arrived at a H  na Qu  bec blood drive on the McGill University campus on Wednesday, 25 January, shortly before the drive was shut down by its director. The students played music and dressed in drag to call attention to what they considered discrimination against gay men. They also encouraged those who were eligible to donate—those who hadn't engaged in high-risk behaviour—to embellish or lie about their sexual history and practices. This is an ideal democratic protest—a vocal, sensible message and mild social disruption with no one hurt.

Contrast this form of protest with that encouraged by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance in South Africa. After hearing that the South African National Blood Services was refusing to accept blood donated by gay men, the Alliance encouraged these men to lie about their sexual history when asked if they had had sex with another man in the past five years.

Under Health Canada regulations, any man who has had sex with another man since 1977 is forever excluded from donating blood. However, in several other industrialized nations, including Australia, New Zealand and Italy, this lifetime ban has been lifted, as it was deemed overzealous and unnecessary. What hasn't changed, even in those countries, is that the behaviour engaged in by many gay men is seen as a potential threat to the security of national blood systems. Some say that this amounts to discrimination based on homophobia and sexual stereotypes. But is this really so?

This is the purpose of the screening questions that all potential donors are asked to minimize the risk to recipients. These questions are based on no arbitrary discriminatory classifications, but on behaviours that have been seen to carry with them, in general, an increased level of risk. It was never assumed that all, or even most, of the people who fit into these categories are actually a danger to the blood system—just that, because of the increased potential for harm, they had to be excluded. This is why those who have travelled to the UK for more than three months, those who have exchanged sex for drugs or money, and those who have received blood transfusions or dura mater grafts are also excluded.

It must also be said that these classifications, and the questions used to determine them, are based on convenience and efficiency. With enough investigation, or with a questionnaire sufficiently detailed, it would probably be possible to eliminate the risk categories, and have each person assessed on the details of their own life. However, the cost involved would be excessive—the creation of "high-risk groups" is a balance between the need for blood, the need to protect recipients and the desire to minimize discrimination.

The Second Cumming, as I understand it, was fighting for revision of the Health Canada regulations, to decrease what they deemed unnecessary discrimination—a commendable goal. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance in South Africa, on the other hand, by putting the "right" to donate blood ahead of the safety of the recipients, took the fight for equality much too far. In this situation it must be realized that the need to protect those receiving transfusions from harm supersedes the discrimination inherent in the donation questions.

TIM PEPPIN  
Opinion Editor

## Suzuki: fuck yeah!

THIS PAST MONDAY, David Suzuki was named to the Order of Canada. A tireless environmentalist whose long-running show, *The Nature of Things*, taught a generation of Canadians about the natural world, Suzuki is more or less the face of science in Canada. He's also quite possibly the most foul-mouthed recipient of the Order, ever; seriously, dude's got a mouth like a fucking swearword, which just makes it all the cooler. Check that: makes it all the fucking cooler.

DAVID BERRY  
Managing Editor

## LETTERS

### Free speech no defence for caricatures of Mohammed

First of all, we've fought enough wars over religion in the past. We shouldn't be starting another one over a cartoon.

With Western European governments' diplomatic (almost predictable) response to the controversial cartoons and subsequent backlash in the Muslim world, I've noticed one thing that seems to be lost in all of this: while the freedom of speech is highly valued throughout the European Union, Holocaust denial is a criminal offence in many of its member states (although Denmark isn't one of them). Freedom of speech is over-ridden, as it's not a justifiable defence to Holocaust denial in those countries.

If this is the case, then why is it okay to overlook freedom of speech and outlaw Holocaust denial, but drawing cartoons that might have the potential to offend Muslims is to be defended by freedom of speech? Does anybody really think that Danish prime minister Rasmussen would ever defend a Holocaust denier under the banner of "freedom of speech"?

What I'm saying here is not that Holocaust denial could be justified under any circumstances. What I'm really saying is that the notion that there are limits to freedom of speech isn't a new idea. In Canada, for example, freedom of speech won't defend you from defamation suits. Thus, *Jyllands-Posten* should have known better than to publish satires that would be offensive to people's religious faiths.

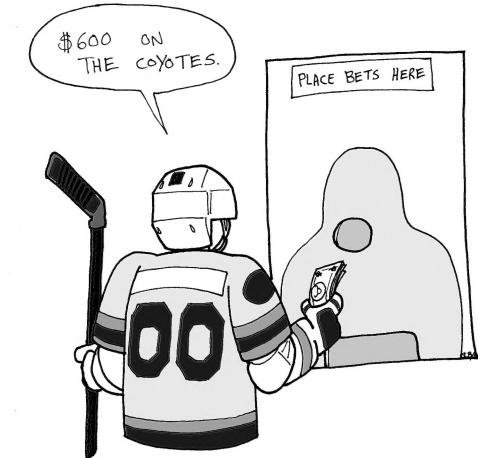
Although that I must agree that the Danish government shouldn't be apologizing for *Jyllands-Posten*, as the newspaper is completely independent from the Danish government, I wish the Danish prime minister would stop repeating the freedom of speech defence as if all only make democracies and the western world look bad (and thus less acceptable) to Muslim countries. The newspapers that published the cartoon shouldn't be issuing an "if anyone was offended" apology, because it's not the Muslims' fault that they have to apologize.

From the responses of western governments, it seems as though having limits to our sacred freedom of speech is uncharted territory. If Western Europe always talk about how they "fought for their freedom" in World War I, then isn't it right to use this freedom responsibly?

DENNY TSANG  
U of A alumus, Edmonton

### Freedom of speech shouldn't be absolute

I had a mixed reaction to Ch  l Fedio's article "Violence more serious than racist cartoons" (7 February). Partly, I do agree with what was said and agree that the Muslims perhaps reacted a bit too aggressively in some aspects. Carrying out such actions as burning down embassies and flags, and violent protests only reinforces the negative stereotype of Muslims being violent. There are better,



more civil ways of dealing with such issues. For example, the boycott of Danish goods was a peaceful way of protesting.

However, I sensed that the article implied that the global reaction to the printing of the cartoons was unjustified. Don't get me wrong, I am a stark believer in freedom of expression and freedom of speech. However, no freedom should ever be absolute, since that can only lead to it being abused. Freedom can be maintained as long as the rights of others are not being infringed upon. The printing of the cartoons did just that. Printing them in such a negative light as was done made it inevitable that Muslims worldwide would be angered.

I also disagree with Ms Fedio in regards to government involvement. Whereas she believes the government should have no intervention in this issue, I believe that if the government needs to be called upon to pressure "independent" organizations to begin respecting the rights of others, then that is exactly what should be done.

MONAZAH SYED  
Pharmacist

### New Bible translations are disgraceful

This is a reply to "The New Bible: Jesus 4 Life" (2 February). I was wondering if Mr Gaumont was born into a Christian bookstore lately. He states that, "The least widely accepted English translation came out in 1887," so he must have totally missed the New International Version, or the Message, both of which are very reader friendly, and with most coming with guides and study aids to help understand and apply the text to our everyday life. And both are widely accepted translations.

I was frankly appalled to hear of this new Australian so-called Bible. I found that statements such as the Wise Men are "eggheads from out East" or the Bible in Cockney saying "Jesus heals some geezer" are destroying the stories that they're

meant to teach. Glossing over the details changes the text more than you might think, and pretty soon we end up with something that doesn't resemble the text at all. True, our accepted English translations are still "translations" and can't be perfect, but they're way closer than some of the things that are put into these Bibles.

I appreciate that people are taking the effort to make the Bible more accessible to the younger generation, but some of these are, in my opinion, creating, in the long run, more problems, and turning the Bible as we know it into a joke.

ADRIANNE BAKER  
Arts III

### We want good porn, not amputees, Pierce

Conal Pierce's response to James Storie's article "Porn should make me feel dirty" (2 February), at least partly—possibly entirely—misses Storie's point: that porn's tendency to degrade women is disturbing, rather than appealing. I don't think Storie's porn vices will disintegrate in the cyber-realm of "animal porn" and "amputation fetish sites" that you speak of, Mr Pierce. Storie wants some non-degrading, good quality porn that makes him feel like a kid again, stumbling across "air-brushed crotches" and "full-on kisses."

Mainstream porn is hilariously predictable and void of artistry. It's also blatantly degrading to women, and revolves around male fantasies and desires. This is because men are the primary producers of porn—and these producers are not the feminist type. Likewise, men (again non-feminist) are the primary audience.

Sadly, the majority of porn enthusiasts are satisfied with the deplorable state of mainstream pornography. Luckily, however, a few individuals, like Storie and myself, are not. Understandably, most feminists have more pressing concerns than going out and creating their own porn in the name of gender equality, so the best they

can do is avoid supporting the porn that goes against their purpose. Good, non-degrading porn does, in fact, exist, but it's very expensive and hard to find; this is because the demand for it is nominal.

So, I encourage Storie, and others who are as disgusted in the state of mainstream porn as me, to go out looking for alternatives. Or, better yet, make your own. And to all of you who are content with your banal, sexist porn, remember that each time you support that industry you're promoting the oppression of women, and nurturing your own myopic views of sexuality.

NINA VARSWA  
English III

### Why doesn't Peppin just admit to being a Nazi?

This letter is in regards to Tim Peppin's article, "Modern medicine will kill us all" (2 February). There's one great question that Peppin's article leaves us with—what should scientists, politicians, doctors and each of us as individuals do about supposed inferior genes?

Short of far-off artificial solutions like gene therapy, there's a grand total of three things we can do to "address" our own DNA. One is nothing. The second is to let natural selection take its course—in Peppin's particular example, let mother and child die if mommy's not loose enough. That might be amenable from the top of an ivory tower, but for people who have souls? Mmm, not so much. The third, then, is to partially or totally regulate who can and can't have children, based on their genetic characteristics.

Of course, we do a special word for that. If Peppin supports eugenics, he should be frank about it, rather than trying to dodge the stigma. Fascist I am" is a much better headline than the cynical attention-grabber, "Modern medicine will kill us all."

JAMAL SALEM  
Science I

PLEASE SEE LETTERS PAGE 9





# Punch cards—a new program for social responsibility



MIKE KENDRICK

Every so often, you find a certain type of individual whose character is so hypnotically compelling you can't help but be drawn in. At first, you may only catch a passing glance. Perhaps it's something about the way they wear their hair. Perhaps it's the unique wardrobe they've chosen to display with such conspicuous zeal. Whatever the feature that grips you might be, all you can do is stare at this person. As you gaze deeper into his or her persona, you find yourself at a loss for words. And then it hits you. Your psyche cries out, pinpointing the exact reaction this person evokes in you. In a moment of triumphant epiphany, you find yourself thinking, "Holy shit. I want to punch that person in the fucking face."

I'm sure a lot of you saw this going somewhere completely different. However, there's an issue surrounding our restrictive social norms that I feel we should address here. If you're still apprehensive, come, take my hand, and I promise, I'll make this a soothing and comfortable transition for you.

First, I need you to sit back, just take a deep breath and relax. Close your eyes, block everything else out, and most importantly, forget about the people around you. This is key. Are you ready? Good.

Isn't this nice? You're not a care in

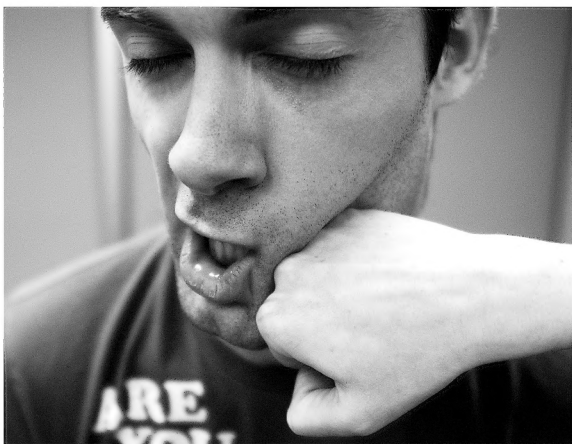
the world! You've transcended the mundane, and now walk the path of the enlightened. This, my friend, is a world that you have built for yourself, one that is perfect in everything that represents you, and not a single other being can take that away from you.

Now snap out of it. Did you think this was nap time or something? This is the real world, bub, and that asshole grinning at you from the top of this column just pulled you out of your dreamy little trance. Don't you just want to punch me in the face? Yes, you do.

The fact of the matter is that people, in general, are assholes. Some may hold a far greater specialization in the field of assholery than others, but at some point, the whole lot of you have probably done something to fuel my rage towards the general populace. It's not even what people do to me sometimes, but what they do to themselves. So much of how we judge a stranger is based on the kind of image they deliberately project, and frankly, that pretentious haircut you're sporting really pisses me off. Sometimes, they look so arrogant, stuck-up or just plain ignorant, that the only way these people can learn is through a fat knuckle sammich.

But how do we handle this matter? Clearly, what pisses me off could be completely tolerable to someone else. That's why we need some kind of system in order for a plan like this to actually pan out. Just your luck! I've taken the time to carefully formulate a flawless plan, so listen up now, because she's a gooder.

We all need licenses. Licenses to punch. When you come of age in this province, you can apply to operate a



PHOTOILLUSTRATION: MATT FRIEDNER

**RIGHT IN THE FACE** He's getting punched in the jaw for a reason. A good reason. The answer's buried in the text.

motor vehicle, which is practically a four-wheeled, petroleum-burning death machine in itself, so why can't you apply for a license to inflict quick and relatively inconsequential bodily harm while you're at it?

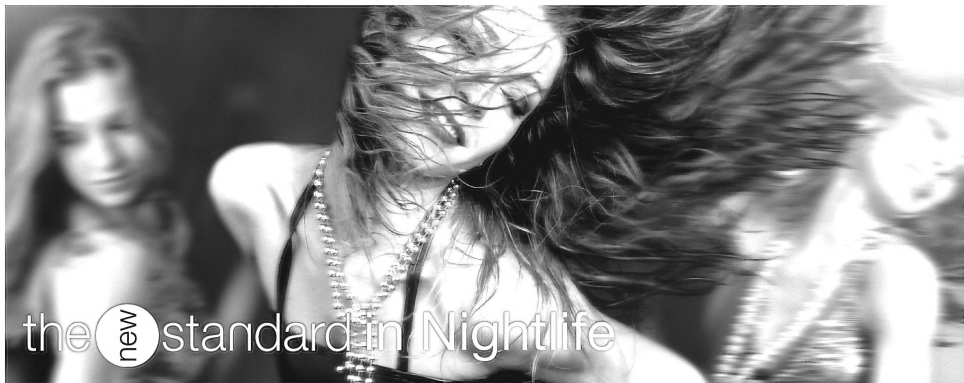
I'll admit that I sure wouldn't want to live my life in fear of a constant barrage of punches, so obviously, we'd have to regulate this kind of behaviour. We could limit things to one punch a month, and then see how

things go from there. I suggest a card system. They'd have little boxes, and every time you exercised your right to self-expression, you'd have to swap card info with the recipient and punch a hole in one of the boxes. We could call them Punch Cards! Ha! Punch! Get it? There's a pun in there, in case you missed it.

Of course, we'd also have to place classes and limitations on the cards too, to prevent a fit and burly man

from hitting, say, a woman, an invalid or a minority. You filthy racist.

Once all the fine details and red tape are out of the way, though, I'd say that we'd have a pretty solid system of government-controlled psychotherapy in the works. Tell me you're not convinced. If you're really not, by all means, go back to your happy place. Just don't blame me when someone breaks your nose for wearing that fucking American Apparel t-shirt.



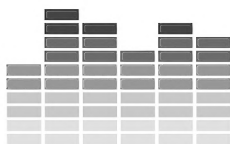
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# Grade school the place for English



ADAM  
GAUMONT

First-year English is the bane of many students' existence, especially (but not exclusively) non-English majors. And while six credits of novels, plays and essays are seen as superfluous by many students in non-literary disciplines, such standards have thus far been upheld by the University for one important reason: writing instruction. However, if you ask teachers around campus about the competency of their students' writing, they'll likely tell you that, in general, it's far below what it reasonably ought to be.

The people who run the University are, for the most part, very smart, and are very aware of what's going on in the classrooms. As a result, administrators have begun in the last few years to reassess why the writing skills of students at this upstart academic institution are so low.

"Why can't our students write?" they ask. "Is it because they're dumb? Is it because their teachers are dumb? Is it because class sizes are too big? Is it because there are so many students for whom English is their second language? Oh, why, why, why? What is it that we're doing wrong?"

Unfortunately, such a method of inquiry is likely never to yield satis-

factory results, for one simple reason: poor writing skills, and poor language comprehension in general, is a failing not of the University, but of the public grade-school system.

I'm not saying that the University shouldn't teach writing skills, for indeed they should, and advanced skills at that. I'm saying that many, perhaps even most, students today are graduating high school so ill-equipped with the linguistic skills necessary to perform in an academic environment that instructors—especially English instructors—are forced to revert to rudimentary instruction just to get them up to speed.

Now lest you think that such deficiency exists primarily amongst students from foreign countries who bravely take courses in languages not their own—an ability of which I am continuously in awe—especially given that the English language, compared to many others, is preposterously difficult to learn, keep in mind that supposedly proficient "native" English speakers are just as guilty.

In my first-year English class, for example, there were a number of individuals who couldn't even correctly identify the subject and verb of a sentence. Now I don't care if you're an engineer, a Phys Ed student, or the fucking pope for that matter; you need to know this stuff in order to communicate properly with other human beings.

Besides, as far as ESL students go, that's why we have checks and balances such as TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) in place.

Whether or not TOEFL's requirements should be raised or its testing methods altered is a discussion for another day. If anything, though, it seems like universities in Canada should have aptitude tests for native English speakers.

The reason that the public school system doesn't bother teaching the English language is because of the general underlying and erroneous assumption that, well, we all speak English just fine, darn it, so why should we have to teach it to the kids? They know how to talk—so they must know how to write, right? Wrong.

I won't dive into the linguistic aspects of this matter, and instead offer this analogy in its place: just because you know how to use the Internet doesn't mean you can write Java script. But being able to write Java script isn't the point. I can't write Java script. The point is that we should all be able to write coherent sentences, and that's a skill that needs to be taught in Junior High, not junior year.

Writing skills are more important now than ever before. As we move into an increasingly detached and technology-dependent world of communication, we need to be able to write in order to communicate at all. Even if you're not into "books" or "newspapers" or even "writing legibly with a pen," there are still e-mails, text messaging, instant messaging, online journals, blogs and the Internet. This is the discourse of the 21st century, one in which you can't take part if you can't write. And if you can't write by the time you're in university, then I'm afraid it's too late.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

## Smokers pay for their own healthcare, and likely yours, as well

In reference to the smoking issue, and specifically in response to the letter by Mike Knauer that appeared in the 2 February issue of the Gateway ("Smoking doesn't affect just you—we all pay for healthcare"), I feel it's important to bring up a fact about this country's healthcare and the impacts of smoking thereon.

Mr Knauer, like so many others, comes to the false conclusion that smoking is somehow a burden on the healthcare system in the long term. In fact, noth-

ing could be further from the truth. Mike, you (and everyone else) should be thanking the smokers you see around you, because the enormous taxes that smokers pay out each time they buy a pack of smokers in this country means that smokers not only pay for their own healthcare, but they actually pay for the healthcare of others as well.

Try this: look up how much tax is collected from smokers, and then compare it to how much is actually paid up by our healthcare system to treat all smoking-related diseases. Then, once you've realized the truth, don't ever drag up the tired "healthcare burden" argument for why smokers are so bad. This is the same reason we still have VLTs: they more than pay for them-

selves, although the moral question is still left up to the individual.

BEN CLELAND  
Science V

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The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or hateful in nature.

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# Indiana Jonesing for Harrison Ford

Hollywood star Harrison Ford talks to the *Gateway* about movies, success and forever being associated with his silver-screen characters

## Movie preview: *Firewall*

Directed by Richard Loncraine

Starring Harrison Ford, Paul Bettany and Virginia Madsen

Opens Friday, 10 February

MICHAEL LAROUCHE  
Entertainment Editor

Every actor packing up and moving to Hollywood is hoping for a "big break": a film that will launch their career, a character that they will always be remembered for, or even a solitary line that will place them in an audience's collective unconsciousness. Very few reach even one of those goals, but Hollywood leading man Harrison Ford has achieved all three.

From *Star Wars* to *Indiana Jones*, Ford has managed to leave his mark on the industry by starring in two of the most popular and iconic film franchises of cinematic history, accompanied by roles in unsuspecting fan favourites like *Blade Runner*. With such a profound past, one would think that Ford picking a new undertaking would be a decision of monumental importance, and while he makes it clear that he works hard to choose quality projects, he checks his movie star hat—and that of Indiana Jones, as well—at the door when making the call.

**"I was once in New York and I was walking to my car. As I approached I saw somebody begin to write a ticket. Like everybody else, I tried to talk them out if it. I said, 'Hey,' from the middle of the street as I approached. He turned around and looked at me and said two words: 'Mosquito Coast' and snapped it onto the windshield. He didn't like 'Mosquito Coast' and he was giving tickets."**

HARRISON FORD

"Well, what I look for is a very strong script to start with, or an idea for a very strong script," says Ford. "I look for a character that's different to one I've lately played and for the opportunity to tell a story that I have some faith in, to tell a story that's part of a film that I hope an audience will enjoy seeing. I'm really looking for something that I think has a chance to be a good movie. It's that simple. It is my ambition to try to do films in many different genres."

Ford's latest film, this Friday's *Firewall*, has him starring as Jack Stanfield, a security expert whose family has been taken hostage by Bill Cox (Paul Bettany). Cox, who has been studying Stanfield and his family for the better part of a year, uses his intimate knowledge of the family to force Stanfield into robbing the bank he has been hired to protect. Jack has no choice but to go along with the scheme, all the while trying to figure out how to avoid Cox's final move: making the evidence frame him for long-term imprisonment.

The film will be Ford's first major movie since 2003's *Hollywood Homicide*, a minor time away for a major Hollywood star, but a relative lifetime for the star who has been putting out films annually for the better part of his career. According to Ford, the production of *Firewall* had continued roadblocks that kept filming from

getting underway.

"This film took a particularly long time to bring to the screen because we had a lot of work to do," explains Ford. "We had things we wanted to accomplish and unfortunately our first director had to drop out. We had to then find another director and begin to craft the script to reflect some of his concerns. I had anticipated it would be much quicker. This is an unusual turn of events for me. In the past I have normally done one film a year and I intend to continue doing it that way."

Even for an established and accomplished actor like Harrison Ford, however, the sting of a poorly received film can hurt just as much, a fact that has led to not only his selectivity in his script and project choices, but also in his own personal philosophy to deal with his harshest critics: finicky moviegoers who aren't afraid to stick it to someone like Ford. With nearly 30 years in the movie business under his belt, though, he's learned that self-satisfaction is the key to surviving a business in which you're constantly being judged and scrutinized is to have a strong sense of self-satisfaction in your work, a lesson Ford has had to apply firsthand.

"I was once in New York and I was walking to my car. As I approached I saw somebody begin to write a ticket. Like everybody else, I tried to talk them out if it. I said, 'Hey,' from the middle of the street as I approached. He turned around and looked at me and said two words: 'Mosquito Coast' and snapped it onto the windshield. He didn't like 'Mosquito Coast' and he was giving tickets."

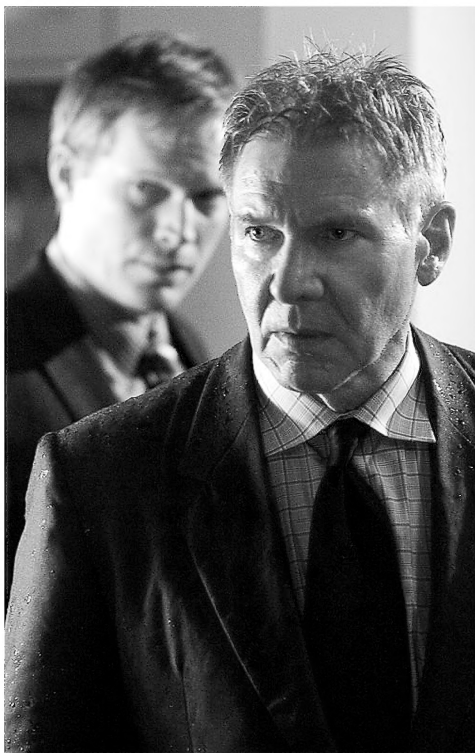
"Everybody has a different idea of what it is that they want," Ford continues. "All you can do is satisfy yourself that you've done the best job you can, that you've brought the material to the finest focus you can obtain, it's as particular and strong as you can make it. Then you have to let it lay."

For all his star power, though, the biggest demon Ford faces in creating films is himself. While his previous roles ensure him a constant stream of quality scripts to choose from, escaping the macho-action persona he gained from his days as Han Solo and Indiana Jones is a task Ford faces with every film. Even more troubling, however, is Ford's parallel battle on the mean streets of reality against those who equate his on-screen personalities with the real-life Harrison Ford, a problem that might help explain the aforementioned parking ticket.

"It may well be that people are relating more to what they take to be my persona, but my persona is a dramatic construction of its own," says Ford. "Perception is in the eye of the beholder and people perceive me in a way that is not an exact match for who I am. My cultural utility to them has been established by their experience with the films that I'm in—I'm not the person that they experience in the films. An actor has his own intelligence, imagination and experience to draw upon. I do think people see us in a way that is influenced so greatly by what it is that we do for them, and that it is in fact not terribly accurate."

For Ford, though, a reputation as an on-screen hero and as a leading man might just be as close to being set in stone as it will get for anyone in the movie business. While Ford says he plans on having some supporting roles in the near future, for now, movies like *Firewall* will keep him in the middle of the action and front and centre on the screen—not that Ford really wants it any other way.

"What's important for me, though, is to be responsible for what people come to see because it's offered under my name. I am interested in playing supporting parts. [But] there is another thing, though," says Ford, who cites creative control as a reason for taking starring parts. "Like a fireman, I don't want to role out on a little trash fire in a dumpster. If I'm going to pull on my boots, I want to fight the big one."



## BAD, BAD BETTANY

Paul Bettany, the up-and-coming Brit from *Wimbledon* and *A Beautiful Mind* is starring as Bill Cox, the man holding Ford's on-screen family hostage.

**A villain character can easily become a movie cliché; what's your strategy for approaching such a role?**

It's clearly a genre movie, right, so you're playing a villain in a thriller, and there are certain notes that you have to hit because it's genre. There are traditions and rules. What you hope to do is, of course, give people a good ride in the movie. In order to do that they need to sort of be fooled into believing that it's real. I try to produce a villain grounded in some version of reality.

**You're trying to approach it with more restraint?**

Businessmen lay off human beings from work, businessmen decide to make shirts in Indonesia and use eight-year-old children to do it in order to turn a profit, businessmen make really cold decisions everyday. Businessmen run diamond mines. They walk around in the legitimate world

and I think I try to play it more like that.

**Do you think that kind of portrayal affects the audience more than the stereotypical mouse-tache-twiddling villain?**

I'm not sure that it does. It's only my opinion. I'm of that opinion because I think that even if an audience doesn't understand why it's investing less in the characters, I think it's always because their belief in the situation has been undermined. We were asking people to believe this could happen to you. That's the conceit of how this sort of thriller works. Your family life could be turned upside down. How safe is your identity? If I sat there stroking a cat with a scar down my face, I think people would kind of be alienated, and that's not what you want.

**You're going to play a villain again in your next movie, this summer's *The Da Vinci Code*. Have you officially gone over the dark side?**

If you're an actor and Ron Howard rings you up and asks you to play an assassin monk and you say no, I think it's probably time for you to go home.





## Final Destination: the dollar theatres

*Final Destination 3* kills off its only redeeming feature: gruesome death scenes

### Final Destination 3

Directed by James Wong  
Starring Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Ryan  
Meriman and Kris Lemche  
Opens Friday, 10 February

ELIZABETH VAIL  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Dear Death,

I just saw *Final Destination 3*, and I'd thought I'd send you a letter, because frankly, I'm a little concerned. Have you been tired, anxious or depressed lately? Troubles with the missus? Ordinarily I wouldn't complain, but it's starting to show in your work.

I understand why you'd be pissed. In the first two installments of *Final Destination*, it seemed that every time you decided to throw yourself an orgiastic death party an unexplained force, be it God, Moses, or SpongeBob, threw a wrench into your plans by sending some angst-filled teen a vision of how they and a carefully multi-ethnic group of individuals would bite the big one. And, of course, then you had to spend the rest of those movies hunting down those marked for death by killing them with deceptively coincidental freak accidents. Life's a bitch, ain't it? But that doesn't mean you should tone down your scheduled massacres. In *Final Destination* and *Final Destination 2*, you turned an airplane explosion and car pileup into morbid ballets of pirouetting

debris and bright splashes of bodily fluids. In *Final Destination 3*, however, your death-fest was a big disappointment.

**Aside from the scene where two clueless, topless bimbos are broiled alive in their tanning beds, the death scenes here are slashed into mincemeat by sloppy editing.**

I mean, not only does angst-ridden photographer Wendy (Mary Elizabeth Winstead, *Sky High*) get advance warning of your dramatic rollercoaster crash, but the crash itself is filmed in such a blurry, erratic manner that I really had no idea how the accident started or how the passengers died, other than the fact that one minute they were in their seats and then they weren't. Plus, Wendy discovers that the photographs she's taken of the survivors all contain some bizarre, symbolic portent of how you plan to kill them later.

This time around, the gruesome ends you devise for those who were never meant to escape your cold grasp are choppy, lightning quick, and completely predictable. Your victims

don't seem to die so much as vanish in a puff of red mist. You're inevitable, Death. You have all the time in the world. Just because some bratty teen does something stupid like flip you the bird, shoot pigeons with a nail-gun, or sing "Rollercoaster of Love" right after all of their friends have died in a rollercoaster is no reason to go off the handle and ruin the whole affair.

Don't forget, this movie is all about you! I'm not supposed to care about the bland, cookie-cutter actors who are paid to mope and whine between bouts of grisly impalement and evisceration. What I care about is the impalement and evisceration! Once, you were able to render audiences terrified of clotheslines, nails, electrical sockets, malfunctioning ovens and even rickety chairs! Aside from the scene where two clueless, topless bimbos are broiled alive in their tanning beds, the death scenes here are slashed into mincemeat by sloppy editing. Now, the only reason to look forward to a teen meeting his or her expiration date is that it means there's one less person I wished would shut up and die.

Maybe you're getting old. Maybe it's time you took a day off, relaxed a little, got a little sunshine, and then came back to butcher teenagers. If you're truly sunken to the level of mediocre deaths that are neither scary nor impressive, I'm sure Freddy or Jason would be happy to fill in for you.

and complex, several of the following tracks feature nothing more than a piano and vocals. The lyrics are sung by Rick Temporo in a style frustratingly reminiscent of a cross between Dashboard Confessional's lead singer Chris Carrabba and Matchbox 20's Rob Thomas.

The album might be described as a compilation of heart-wrenching ballads, but it really shouldn't be. *Down In Front* is dressed up pop-emo that relies heavily on sad songs about "her" and never starts feeling like a cohesive album. I wouldn't change the radio station if Rick Temporo came on, but I wouldn't recommend buying the album, either. It's neither fantastic nor abhorrent, but the band could benefit from having a few more years to solidify their sound.

Low have recently released their debut effort, *Down In Front*, and the album begins on what turns out to be a deceptively solid note.

The album opens up with the energetic tune "By The River," and jumps nicely into the album's strongest track, "Chopsticks." While the song—a wonderfully dark and eerie track—seems like a product of Trent Reznor and an acoustic guitar, it also sadly marks the end of the early high note of *Down In Front*.

Indeed, the album loses its footing after "Chopsticks" and never really picks itself back up. The tracks that follow don't share nearly the same kind of energy that the listener is treated to in the opening licks, and the album clearly suffers for it. While "Chopsticks" is cryptic, imaginative

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REID BUCKMASTER  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Newcomers to the Toronto music scene, Rick Temporo & The New

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**Twin Fangs**  
 Street Sweepers  
 Rectangle Records  
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**DAVID BERRY**  
 Managing Editor

The blues-rockiest of Edmonton's holy trinity of power duos, the Twin Fangs (aka Paul James Coutts and Penny Tentary) manage to capture almost all of their ass-kicking energy on their first full-length release, *Street Sweepers*. Big, heavy guitar riffs attack crashing drums on nearly every song on this album, combining to form a lo-fi, hip-shaking rock record.

They probably deserve the biggest credit for actually managing to translate their guts-out live performances to record, something a lot of other similarly energetic local bands have never pulled off. From the first drum beats and Coutts half-screaming "So here are the verses / So now you

can cool it" on the opening track, "Imperial Sound," to the breakneck riffs and snares on the next track, "All We Got" straight through to the building, bashing "More Can Go Wrong," you feel every drop of sweat flying off the duo as they attempt to destroy their respective instruments.

The songs are incredibly simple, of course, and with only about 22 minutes for ten songs, the album doesn't so much fly by as it does transport instantaneously from place to place, but still, for the brief time it's on, it hits pretty hard. This isn't exactly a full-course rock meal, but it is one hell of a mouth-watering snack.



**TAKING A POUNDING** Gypsy-punk group Gogol Bordello filled the Sidetrack Café with Eastern European rock Monday.

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*Wade Davis*

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While some of us amateur photographers might not be able to display our work anywhere other than in a scrapbook, a handful of fine art students from Japan, Thailand and Canada have been provided with the opportunity to exhibit some of their best photos right here at the U of A.

About 31 of the snap-happy artists from Slipkorn University, Tama Art University and the University of Alberta have pulled together their most prized creations for the show, and over the next couple of weeks, their work will be hung in the FAB Art Gallery. You may have seen photos from other countries, but these ones are taken by bona-fide students who probably avoided flowers and sunsets, so make sure you pop by the FAB Gallery in the next little while.



**Absence and Presence**  
Written and Performed by  
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It's hard losing a loved one, and sometimes, it's even harder to express grief. But for renowned UK artist Andrew Dawson, examining sorrow through multiple forms of art—all at the same time—can be a cathartic experience.

Described as being "the best cutting-edge creation-based theatre from across the country and around the world," Dawson's production combines acting, sculpture, video and movement all into one massive performance aimed at exploring the death of his father. The work itself has won numerous awards over its run—including the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Total Theatre Award, the Carol Tambor Award and the Herald Angel Award—and as a result has gained an enormous amount of international recognition. And, in addition to being a highly successful multi-tasker, Dawson's knack for the arts has led to him being appointed cultural ambassador for the 2012 Olympics in London. Impressed? Check him out at the Catalyst Theatre.

AMANDA ASH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff



## Pink Panther? More like stink panther!

After a six-month delay, you'll be wishing this movie was never released at all

### The Pink Panther

Directed by Shawn Levy  
Starring Steve Martin, Kevin Kline, Jean Reno and Beyoncé Knowles  
Opens Friday, 10 February

PATRICK ROSS  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

There's a general rule assumed by most Hollywood critics that sequels must suck, and for the most part, they're right. Everyone can name films like *The Godfather: Part II* that fly in the face of such a claim, but the exceptions are diamonds in the rough.

For years, the *Pink Panther* series was one of those diamonds. Directed by Blake Edwards, the original films in the series set a high benchmark for slapstick comedy. It may have indeed been slapstick comedy, but it was slapstick comedy with heart and a brain.

The past 13 years have seen a lapse in the franchise; the last film released was 1993's underwhelming *Son of the Pink Panther*. Now, under director Shawn Levy (who is also responsible for *Cheaper By the Dozen*), the most recent film of the franchise, *The Pink Panther*, attempts to reinvigorate the series with Steve Martin as the incompetent Inspector Jacques Clouseau and Kevin Kline as Chief Inspector Dreyfus. Fortunately for the legacy of the once-great *Pink Panther* franchise, it's hard to see this abysmal failure ever being associated with the films brought to popularity by Peter Sellers.

In this installment, Dreyfus has enlisted ever-bumbling Clouseau as

an unwitting patsy in a scheme to win the elusive Medal of Honor—an award which Dreyfus has been nominated for seven times without winning. The plan for Dreyfus is simple: recruit Clouseau, France's most incompetent police officer, to solve the murder of a famous and beloved French Soccer coach. When Clouseau's case inevitably falls apart, Dreyfus will step in to save the day and win his sought-after award.

Steve Martin's "re-  
imagination" of  
Inspector Clouseau  
leaves him playing little  
more than a caricature  
of Peter Sellers' original  
caricature, and the  
movie tries too hard to  
force itself within a 90-  
minute running time.

Clouseau's potential suspects include the coach's girlfriend, "international pop superstar" Xania (played by ubiquitous and unnecessary Beyoncé Knowles), a rival French soccer star, a Casino owner, and a Russian sports trainer. Meanwhile, Dreyfus keeps tabs on Clouseau using the services of Gendarme Gilbert Ponton (Jean Reno), a man chosen for his ability to follow orders and not ask questions.

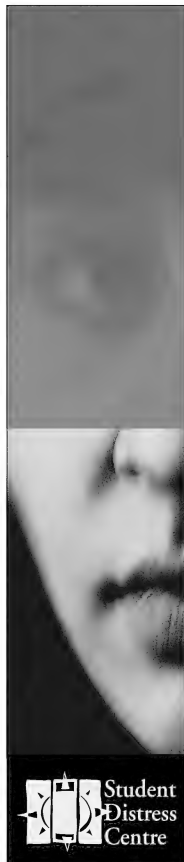
While in previous *Pink Panther*

films such zany antics would likely be played to their full and hilarious potential, in this version all of their supposedly "funny" actions fall flat. These two characters are supposed to be one of the classic comedy pairings, remember, but Martin and Kline come off as awkward and uncomfortable. Granted, physical comedy is likely the trickiest form of humour to pull off, but there is simply no chemistry between the two stars, making the task next to impossible.

Fans of the previous *Pink Panther* films will likely find themselves disappointed and even infuriated by this film. Steve Martin's "re-imagining" of Inspector Clouseau leaves him playing little more than a caricature of Peter Sellers' original caricature, and the movie tries too hard to force itself within a 90-minute running time. Where as the original films took their time with each particular joke, this new *Pink Panther* rushes through them all so fast that it leaves the impression that Levy couldn't wait to be finished with them—or with this film.

That being said, the film isn't without its high points. The appearance of Clive Owen as a British Secret agent should elicit a chuckle from even the most cynical viewer, and the interplay between Martin and Emily Mortimer's characters will leave you relieved that at least one comic duo exists in the movie.

However, these few high points can't hide the fact that the plot doesn't go anywhere, and is merely an excuse for jokes that far too often amount to nothing more than Steve Martin's bad French accent.



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In

1945, Sir Alexander Fleming, the biologist responsible for the discovery of penicillin, cautioned the world that if his miracle drug was overused, the bacteria that it was so effective in killing gradually became resistant to it. Since that time, antibiotic resistance has become one of the most important issues facing modern medicine. In the last 60 years, more and more bacteria have become resistant to more and more antibiotics, creating, among other things, "super bugs" that are virtually invincible in relation to some of our most powerful drugs.

Though, as Fleming's warning demonstrates, resistance has been around as long as antibiotics, the issue has only recently been pushed to the forefront, thanks chiefly to the fact that, in the last while, new antibiotics have become increasingly scarce. Drug companies, wary of the phenomenal amounts of time and money that need to be spent to come up with antibiotics, some of which might only be effective for periods as short as five years due to resistance among bacteria, have focused research on other, more reliable sources of income. As a result, in the past decade, only one or two new classes of antibiotics have been developed.

**It's a food safety issue, not an animal issue. If you cook a superbug, it's not going to do you any harm." However, even Dowling admits that food is often prepared improperly, though again, in her opinion, this is a separate issue. "We can't get people to practice safe sex, so how are we going to get them to wash their hands?"**

#### Dr Trisha Dowling

"There are a number of different components to (antibiotic resistance), but often the most troublesome is when the bacterium that you're trying to kill with the antibiotic has acquired an enzyme that will destroy the antibiotic."

Scientists believe the presence of the enzyme is an evolutionary holdover from when antibody-producing organisms needed protection from those antibodies. Now, explains Jensen, those enzymes are present in many types of bacteria in nature, and are only increasing as use of antibiotics becomes more prevalent.

"The spread of that type of resistance is aggravated by exposure to antibiotics. The more exposure that these bacteria have to antibiotics, the more they are liable to evolve to pick up these resistant mechanisms, and that's why we try to keep the use of antibiotics to a minimum, have them used only when it's really necessary," she explains.

One area where the use of antibiotics has become a hot topic is in agriculture: many farmers and ranchers use antibiotics to help keep their animals healthy. While most of the public worry with this is fear that humans will be unknowingly ingesting those antibiotics—a generally unfounded fear, since withdrawal times are specifically planned to ensure the antibiotics have passed through the animals' system before they are sent to slaughter—the real issue is that this animal exposure might be affecting human diseases. In other words, the medicine we give our cows might be making it harder for us to kill bacteria that are harming us.

"When you're talking about the use of antibiotics in agriculture, the question becomes, is that necessary enough to justify the problem that it may lead to in resistance?" summarizes Jensen of the debate.

Dr Trisha Dowling, a professor at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, believes that, although supplying low doses of antibiotics in feed provides conditions that promote resistance, the threat to human health is minimal due to the way in which livestock is processed.

"What's the difference between a daycare center and a feedlot? They're both cesspools of antimicrobial resistance," said Dowling.

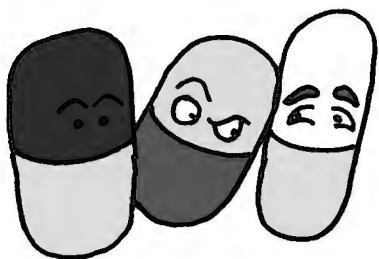
As a result, doctors and scientists are more acutely aware of the place antibiotics have in society, and in particular how we can prevent our relatively small supply from losing its efficacy.

But how does antimicrobial resistance develop in the first place? According to Dr Susan Jensen, a professor in the Microbiology department at the U of A, resistance has always been around, in some form or another.

continue next page



Feature by Phil Head  
Illustration by Mike Kendrick



According to Dowling, since the feedlot animals are only kept alive for about 18 months before they are eaten, there is no time for antimicrobial resistance to develop, unlike in humans, who live much longer and will likely be treated with antibiotics many times during their lifetime. Furthermore, if a resistant microbe were to develop, cooking the meat would destroy the microbe before it could infect anyone.

"We don't have to keep the cows in the old cow homes for a really long time," she explains. "And that's where we are seeing the selection pressure. When we look at things like [antimicrobial resistant] gonorrhea, we're pretty sure that's not an animal problem."

However, just because animals don't carry certain human diseases like gonorrhea, it doesn't exclude them from sharing resistance with those pathogens. Dowling herself admits that bacteria are capable of transferring genes encoding resistance between different species.

"It's phenomenal. They have the intrinsic ability to incorporate genetic material into themselves. It's like a chicken who'd look at a cow and say 'I like your horns' and grab the gene for it and suddenly have them."

Not everyone agrees with Dowling's assessment, though. Dr Joseph Blondeau, a professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, believes that the sheer volume of antimicrobial use in agriculture makes it a major contributor to resistance.

"American society accounts for 60 per cent of global antibiotic use, of which 40–80 per cent of that 60 per cent is used in animals," he points out. "The enormous volume of drug use has to have an impact on antimicrobial resistance, whether you're cooking those animals or not."

Dowling, however, downplayed those statistics, saying that the numbers can be misleading.

"About 20.5 million pounds of antimicrobials were used and marketed to food and companion animals in the United States, including some of the same drugs that are used in humans, like aminoglycosides and fluoroquinolones," she admits. "But if you look at the numbers, the vast majority are the ionophores and arsenicals which have absolutely no use in human medicine whatsoever."

"So it's always a very skewed argument used against those of us in animal agriculture talking about how many million pounds are being used in animals. When you think of the lifespan of food animals, how many pounds of meat you produce a year for people to eat, that's very different than the number of daily doses we're actually giving humans."

It's not quite that simple, though, according to Jensen. She argues that even though the drugs licensed for use in animals are different than those licensed for humans, bacteria don't seem to care. He points to one example of a drug called vancomycin, a so-called "last-resort" drug that was used to treat infections that had developed resistance to other antimicrobials, most notably methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), the bacterium behind staph infections.

"There's a close relative to vancomycin called avoparcin, and that one was for a long time being used in poultry in North America and Europe and then it was recognized that resistance to avoparcin could give you cross-resistance to vancomycin," says Jensen. And with that, one of our most powerful antibiotics is rendered moot.

Of course, along with the risk of increasing resistance in bacteria is the possibility that drug-resistant microbes are present in feed animals, and may be passed to humans through consumption. Despite the presence of antimicrobial resistant pathogens in livestock, however, Dowling believes there is no risk of direct infection with them from food.

"It's a food safety issue, not an animal issue. If you cook a superbug, it's not going to do you any harm." However, even Dowling admits that food is often prepared improperly, though again, in her opinion, this is a separate issue. "We can't get people to practice safe sex, so how are we going to get them to wash their hands?"

Dowling also believes that there is no evidence that antimicrobial resistant bacteria found near farms are caused by the use of antimicrobials in animals.

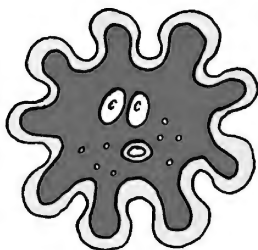
"There are lots of natural antimicrobial things out in nature," she says. "If you just go and pick up a soil sample, you'll find organisms in there that will carry antimicrobial resistance genes. So when you hear about resistance being found near feedlots, you have to prove that there wasn't something already there."

This is supported somewhat by a recent publication in *Science*. Researchers found that when 480 strains of soil microbes were screened against 21 antimicrobial agents, all were resistant to at least seven to eight, with some resistant to as many as 20 antimicrobial agents. However, as dramatic as these results appear, they are to be expected, as soil microbes, particularly the actinomycetes, do manufacture antibiotics and thus would have to protect themselves from their own antibiotic products.

Jensen agrees that it is hard to prove a connection between resistant microbes and feedlots, but feels that one definitely exists.

"The place where it is hard to draw a direct connection is that the increased levels of resistance that you see at the farm as a result of this are not usually in the organisms that are the big concerns in hospitals," she offers. "It's something that's difficult to demonstrate in the lab in a one-day or one-week or one-month timeline, but what you've got is essentially a global experiment going on all over the country all the time. That's why you hear 'Oh, they've found one case in Vietnam' and 'Oh we've got two more over here.' It moves around the world. You don't need it to be happening at high frequency, you just need it to happen and for there to be a strong enough selection."

Difficult to prove or not, the link between agriculture and resistant pathogens has been increasingly in the news. The United States Food and Drug Administration decided during the summer of 2005 to put a ban on the use of the antimicrobial enrofloxacin (Baytril), which



had been used to prevent possible *E. Coli* infections in humans, due to the emergence of resistant bacteria on the poultry farms where it had been used.

But why are antibiotics being used as feed supplements in the first place? According to Jensen, antibiotics are used both to prevent disease and to increase animal growth.

"It's not really understood how they work, but what is known is that they do work. Animals gain weight more quickly and suffer less non-specific diarrhoeal diseases and various kinds of illnesses that animals might get that would keep them from growing as fast as they would optimally," she explains, pointing out that resistance to disease is especially important among feedlot animals, which are generally more susceptible than animals in the wild. "The close quarters make disease spread quickly. As well, it's more stressful for animals to be in close quarters, their social structure is changed, and that adds an additional level of stress that makes them more susceptible to disease and so on."

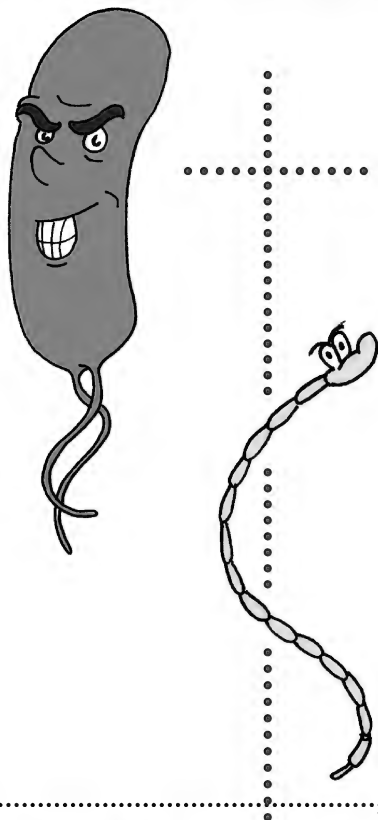
Peter Klita, a nutritionist with Unifeed, one of western Canada's major livestock feed suppliers, estimates that 50 per cent of the total amount of feed they produce contains antibiotics, whether for therapeutic treatment of disease or sub-therapeutic growth promotion. Klita feels that discontinuing antibiotic use is possible, but may not be economically viable.

"Without an antibiotic in the feed to prevent a disease outbreak, we'd probably have to look at use of probiotics [dietary supplements designed to enhance the presence of beneficial bacteria in the digestive system] to establish in the gut and prevent pathogenic bacteria from getting started. Certain spices and essential oils have antimicrobial activity, so that's another option," he says. He points out that the cost is often prohibitive, but alternative methods are being tried out all over the world. "It isn't economically viable, but it's been done in research. It's been improving over the years and there are niche markets out there where they're working towards antibiotic-free feeding programs."

And while many agree that this is a step in the right direction, in the end, the more important issue is that these treatments remain effective. Blondeau feels that it's useless to argue about whether resistance is coming from agriculture or human medicine, and suggests instead we concentrate on preserving the usefulness of these treatments.

"If we don't figure this problem out, we will come to a scenario where we're almost at today with many human pathogens, where we're approaching the pre-antibiotic era," he warns. "It now costs some \$800 million US to bring a new antibiotic to market for human infectious diseases and there are no identifiable new antibiotics in the current pipeline that are going to offer anything substantial over what we currently have in human infectious diseases."

"If you had a member of your family near death with a multi-drug resistant organism, perhaps you would think the value of protecting these compounds is a bit more important than other people may think."



#### **How does resistance work? Just as there are many different ways that antimicrobials can work against cells, microbes have numerous strategies to protect themselves:**

- Destroy the drug. Many bacteria produce proteins called  $\beta$ -galactosidases which recognize and destroy  $\beta$ -lactam rings (the active region of penicillins), rendering the drug inactive before it can affect the cell.
- Get rid of the drug. Many bacteria have special pumps which shoot drugs out of the cell before they can do any damage, kind of like how you vomit to help get rid of excess alcohol.
- Don't let the drug inside in the first place. Many drugs are too large to pass through the cell walls and membranes of certain bacteria thus preventing them from affecting the cell.
- Change your ways. If a drug is preventing bacteria from doing an important task they can find a new way to do it. For instance, with vancomycin resistance, the bacteria change the structure of their cell wall in such a way that the drug can no longer attach itself to the wall effectively and interfere with its synthesis.

#### **How do antibiotics work?**

Antibiotics interfere with some process that is vital to the survival of the unwanted bacteria, while at the same time not vital to the survival of human cells. For instance, bacteria have cell walls made up of a substance called peptidoglycan which protects them from the environment; whereas human only have a membrane. Therefore antibiotics like penicillin and vancomycin that interfere with making cell walls will only harm the bacteria and not their host. This is why antibiotics were often referred to as "the magic bullet," they only hit the target you want them to.



# SPORTS

sports@gateway.ualberta.ca • Thursday, 9 February 2006

## Basketball Bears one win from clinching playoff berth

CHRIS OLEARY  
Sports Editor

Although they still have to play their final two regular season games this weekend, Golden Bears basketball head coach Don Horwood is already thinking playoffs—and he's doing his best to get his team on the same page.

"I'm trying to get them in a playoff mode," the 23-year coaching vet said. "My intensity level has gone up substantially. I'm in their faces, all over them. I've barked them a little this year. Maybe I barked them too much."

Horwood's concerns stem from the inconsistency that has plagued his team this season, as they've compiled a 9-9 in-conference record—the team's worst at this point in the season since 1991/92. This doesn't sit well with Horwood.

"I'm not happy because we haven't played well. We're not consistent. We play well one game and we're horrible the next game," he said.

"For athletes at this level, that's unacceptable. If you're good enough to play hard one game you can play hard two games. Other than that, it's a mental problem. We haven't solved that and now we're running out of time."

For all of the Bears' inconsistencies, it's fitting that a split this weekend against Lethbridge would secure their playoff berth. Should the Bears pick up a win this weekend, they'll lock up second place in the central division, which translates to a playoff series at home against the Calgary Dinos the following weekend. The Bears insist, though, that they're not looking past this weekend and the visiting Lethbridge Pronghorns.

"It's actually not hard [staying focused on this weekend]," said fifth-year point guard and team co-captain Gavin Fedorak. "If we don't win these games, we're done. We still need a win this weekend. We're not looking past that. We're playing our best on Fridays right now, so hopefully we can get it done then and Saturday will be senior night, so I think we'll all be jacked up and ready to play. I've never finished below .500

here. We need two wins this weekend."

As Fedorak mentioned, Saturday night will be senior's night for the Bears, as the program will give Fedorak, James Hudson, Dean Whalen and Phil Sudol a send-off in the pre-game. Fedorak and Hudson said they're looking forward to it, but their focus remains on making sure their season doesn't end with Saturday's game.

"It's a mixed emotion. I love playing ball and playing ball here has been the best for me," Hudson said. "So it's tough that way, but at the same time this is what I expected. After five years that's the way it is. I'm just excited. I want to have a good weekend. I'm excited about getting in the playoffs and taking a step up and playing our best basketball of the year."

"It's weird. You never think it's going to end," Fedorak added. "It's getting to playoff time though, so it's starting to overshadow everything else."

Hudson and Fedorak admitted that the season hasn't gone the way they had hoped it would, but are both ready to put their mediocre record behind them and focus on a long playoff run. "With [Phil Sudol's injury] we thought things would be a lot different," Fedorak said. "The way we were playing after Christmas, I thought we were going to pick it up. If or when we win these games this weekend, we'll finish in second, which is better than we finished last year. [In the playoffs] the regular season record is secondary. Once we get to the playoffs it's about winning."

"[The season] has been completely different than I expected, individually and from a team aspect," Hudson said. "I thought we'd start a lot better. We started the season off in less urgency. Sudol was back and we didn't have him last year. We knew last year would be really tough; this year it was different, because we had him back and we thought we were gonna be real good, just stomp people I guess. Being in second [going into playoffs] is a good position though. Sometimes the numbers don't matter too much."

The Bears will meet the "Horns on Friday and Saturday at 8:30pm in the Main Gym.



SECOND-LAST HOMESTAND? James Hudson (left) and the Bears are a win away from the playoffs. FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

## Hoop Pandas hope to use Lethbridge as a springboard into playoffs

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Staff

With their playoff spot clinched and no chance of catching Calgary for second-place in the division, the Pandas basketball team is set to take on the Lethbridge Pronghorns in a pair of meaningless games this weekend—just don't tell them that.

"We're trying not to think about it like these games don't mean anything. There's a lot on the line for us," said second-year forward Trish Ariss. "We need to beat Lethbridge two games, we need to have that confidence going into the playoffs. We need to be on a high going in against Calgary, and if we can play really well against Lethbridge, then that will do it for us."

The Pandas (8-10) rebuilding efforts appear to have paid off, as the team finds itself on the verge of their first playoff appearance since the 2002/03 season, when Michelle Smith and Christine Shevchuk were the only current Pandas on the team.

Head Coach Trish Baker has other concerns this season, such as her team's less-than-stellar play down the home stretch, especially coming off a weekend sweep at the hands of Saskatchewan.

"We haven't played that well in the last couple of weekends. We're healthy and we need people to play minutes. It's not going to be anything different; if they deserve to play in games, then that's what's going to happen, but it's not just going to happen because it doesn't mean something," she said. "We want momentum heading into playoffs, we don't want to have a crappy weekend before you've got to go in [to a playoff series] and have must-win games."

Lethbridge (3-15) are led by Jordana Miltimore and Jessica Lynch, who both aver-

age about 14 points and five rebounds a game, and the Pronghorns already upset the Pandas once earlier in the season—in a game where Miltimore scored 23 points—and should provide a good warm-up for Alberta before the playoffs begin.

"There's the fact that we split down there and Calgary beat them twice this weekend, and that's incentive, because we want to play at the same level as Calgary," said Baker. "They do a lot of things that Calgary does and that Saskatchewan does, so being able to stop them is pretty important. Lethbridge likes to penetrate and they like to shoot threes, and those are things that Calgary does well. We need to work on ball reversals and making good decisions. We need a little bit less dribble and a little bit more," get your head up, find people that are open."

Baker is also quick to shut down the notion that this weekend could be a chance to rest before playoffs.

"We're having a really hard week in practice. We're pushing hard and demanding perfection in the drills that we do," she said. "They're not getting any opportunity to slack off this week."

Last season, the Pandas swept Lethbridge in their last home series of the season in a move that temporarily moved them into the eighth and final playoff spot, and Ariss hopes that another home sweep this season can have a similar effect for the team.

"We're a different team this year. We play differently; we're not as nervous," she said. "Lethbridge was our last games last year as well and we dominated both games, and we need to do the same this year."

Game time is at 6:30pm on Friday and Saturday in the Main Gym.



PLAYOFF BOUND The Pandas are going to the playoffs for the first time since the 2002/03 season. FILE PHOTO: MIKE OTTO



FILE PHOTO: JAKE TROUGHTON

**CENTRE STAGE** The Pandas' Kristen Hagg is playing without Danielle Bourgeois and finding success this season.

## Pandas' Hagg finally shines on her own

Fifth-year Panda waited four years to be able call the Pandas her team

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Senior News Editor

To the extent that the Pandas hockey team has received media coverage over the last few years, it's almost all gone to former captain Danielle Bourgeois. That's okay with current captain Kristen Hagg, but with four-year linemate Bourgeois now moved on, there are no longer any shadows for her to hide in.

Now in her final year of eligibility after earning a bachelor's degree in physical education and recreation last year, Hagg has quietly moved into second place on the all-time CIS scoring list—so quietly that CIS didn't even realize it at first, which is sort of how it's been her whole career here.

But now she leads the Canada West scoring race with 29 points in 18 games, and she's led the Pandas to first place and an impressive 14-1-3 record heading into the final weekend of the regular season. It's becoming increasingly clear that the forward's success has come from a lot more than playing on a line with the top scorer in CIS history.

"For a long time, I would always be in close behind her and ended up being overlooked because it's like, 'Oh, well, Danielle's there,'" says Hagg. "Now, it's nice to be able to say

I'm on top of the scoring by my own doing. It's more proving something to myself, though."

Pandas head coach Howie Draper notes that recognition for Hagg is long overdue.

"In her first year she was our rookie of the year, and almost every year after that she's been one of our least-recognized contributors," he says. "The media and some of the people outside the team had difficulty finding her because Danielle Bourgeois cast such a big shadow. [But] I think Danielle may have had some difficulty achieving some of the things she achieved had Kristen not been able to get her the puck a lot of the time."

Pandas assistant coach Judy Diduck, who was a teammate of Hagg's for three years before moving behind the bench, says Hagg has had to alter her play somewhat in the absence of Bourgeois, but the numbers indicate that she's certainly had success.

"She's been forced to actually shoot and score this year, where in prior years she'd dish off to Bourgeois—Bourgeois was the finisher," Diduck says. "Like it or not, goal scorers get the attention."

Hagg has also had to fill a leadership hole after Bourgeois and several other key veterans graduated last

year, but all parties seem to agree that she's done an admirable job.

"She's a little bit of everything," says centre Jennifer Newton. "She leads by example, and I think she's a quiet person by nature, but in the dressing room she'll call people out and she really shoots from the hip. It's nothing personal; it's that she respects you and wants you to help the team. It's the best kind of leadership you can get, and it's hard to find in women's hockey."

Hagg is still contemplating her post-Pandas hockey plans, which are dependant on whether she decides to start a career or return to school to earn a master's degree, though one possibility is reuniting with Bourgeois on the Edmonton Chimios of the Western Women's Hockey League, who would certainly be happy to have her.

"It'd be easy to say that my Panda years are over and I'm willing to move on with my life and put hockey behind me, but I know I still want to be competitive. I may want the opportunity to play with Danielle again on the Chimios, or something like that. I'm not completely letting go of it yet; I know I'd miss it a lot."

Hagg and the Pandas will play UBC on Friday and Saturday at 7pm at Clare Drake Arena.

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Gateway is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the 2006/2007 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2006 to 30 April 2007 and pays \$1800/mo\* from mid-August to April. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2006/2007 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a Gateway editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.\*\* Applicants should submit a covering letter, resume and a portfolio to [GatewayBusinessManager@studmail.usualberta.ca](mailto:GatewayBusinessManager@studmail.usualberta.ca) by noon on Friday 3 March 2006. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

### GENERAL STAFF MEETING

All current Gateway staff volunteers are asked to attend a General Staff Meeting where volunteer representatives for the Editor-in-Chief and Line Editor hiring committees will be selected. Those with five or more contributions to the Gateway in the last eight months are eligible both to run for, and vote on, these volunteer rep positions. Please be at the Gateway offices at 3pm on Wednesday the 15th of February or be square.

\* Pay will be adjusted for CPI over the summer and may increase.

\*\* Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at [www.gateway.usualberta.ca/hiring/](http://www.gateway.usualberta.ca/hiring/)

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## Wrestlers confident going to tourney

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI  
Sports Staff

While the blizzard of posters that accompany the Students' Union elections is still a couple of weeks away, campus was almost blanketed with an even more peculiar poster this week. But instead of courting votes, this particular notice was soliciting a rather narrow portion of the population—57kg male students—since they could make the difference between a championship and also-ran status for the Golden Bears wrestling team.

That's because heading into this weekend's Canada West championships in Vancouver with a legitimate opportunity to capture the tournament title for the first time in years, the 57kg weight class is the only one the Bears couldn't fill, which might catch up with them in a tight Canada West conference.

"If we even just had a body that could make that weight it would be great, and having a wrestler there would be a bonus," said Alberta's head coach Vang Ioannides. "But because we're blanking 57 kilos, it's going to cost us points; big points, too. We have the ability to win Canada West. We've won a couple of the tournaments and with our competition intact, there's no reason why we couldn't."

This year has seen a remarkable revival for the Bears, as they boast a handful of talented young wrestlers and have a few seasoned veterans who all have shots at medals or at least trips to nationals in St. Catharines, Ontario in March. While Ioannides says he expects big things from the entire team, he says it's people like team captain and previous CIS medal winner Jarret Wall, previous tournament-winners Joe Slobodian and Joe Harrington, and 2004/05 Canada West Male Wrestler of the Year Anthony Kulak that will have to do well if the Bears are to win the tournament.

"All of them are guys that I think are poised to do well this weekend and they have to put it together," said Ioannides. "If they can win their weight classes then we'll be in a position to win

the tournament, but we'll also need some support from other members of the team if we're going to beat other strong schools."

While this year marks a bit of a renaissance for the Bears program, it's going to be a little bit of a struggle on the Pandas' side to capture medals, as they've entered a rebuilding phase after being at or near the top of women's wrestling since it was introduced eight years ago.

**"If we even just had a body that could make that weight it would be great, and having a wrestler there would be a bonus."**

VANG IOANNIDES  
WRESTLING HEAD COACH

Gone from last year's fourth-place team are veterans Heidi Kulak and Erica Sharp, and with only Jennifer Obst returning this year, the Canada West championship will be all about gaining experience for the green Pandas squad.

"If [Obst] is able to upset a couple of people she could be able to medal and go to nationals, but other than her, we have a couple of up-and-comers who haven't had much of a chance to wrestle this year due to several injuries, and they're raring to go," said Ioannides. "They're somewhat untested, which in many respects is an advantage for us, because nobody knows what to expect from them, so perhaps we'll be pleasantly surprised by them."

Between them, the Bears and Pandas hope to qualify at least a half-dozen wrestlers for the CIS championships that take place in March. However, if the Bears are able to come back across the mountains with a Canada West title in hand, more could be on their way out east, and posters looking for a few good men might start appearing around campus to improve their shot at a CIS title.

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FILE PHOTO: JEFFREY GREENHAUS

**SETTING THE PACE** The track team hopes the High Performance meet will land more bodies at the Can-West finals.

## Track Bears, Pandas working out the kinks

High Performance meet a fresh start for some, first outing for pentathletes

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Staff

Buoyed by talented men's and women's squads as well as high national rankings, the Golden Bears and Pandas track teams return to the Butte dome this weekend for the High Performance meet in a relaxed and pressure-free atmosphere.

"This is basically a last-chance meet for some of those who haven't performed well enough to qualify for Canada West yet," said head coach Georgette Reed. "A lot of our top guys won't be running in all their events; our sprinters will only be running the 60 for example, because it's less physically wearing on them."

The Bears and Pandas have already put together an impressive season that has seen the third-ranked men stay dominant and the women climb to a fifth-place national ranking.

"Our women's team has really picked up," said Reed. "Everyone always knows our men's team will be strong, but our women are right there with them this year. I'm not a big rankings person, because anything can happen on that given day, but I think it's good motivation for them to get up there and strong recognition for all the work they have already done."

Part of the growth of the women's team can be attributed to the athletic recruits brought in by the Pandas, including the highly-touted Carline

Muir, who has already set a school record in the 300m, and Pandas volleyballer Janna Konikowski, who is also Canada West's top shoe-putter.

**"We've had a few athletes with some bad luck and some poor showings, and it's really important for them to put together a really good performance this weekend so we can get them into [Canada West]."**

GEORGETTE REED,  
TRACK AND FIELD HEAD COACH

"I think our veterans guiding the youngsters is paying off and that hard work is enthralling others to join up and go out for track," said Reed, also noting that Alex Gaumont-Casas, one of the key members of the Golden Bears volleyball team, is a member of the track team this season. "I think the nice thing about track and field is that there is something for everybody, and it's refreshing to see people come out and want to try something new."

While the majority of the team may

have a relatively easy weekend ahead, Reed was quick to note the importance of a good showing for those on the verge of qualifying for the Canada West finals, taking place on 24 and 25 February here in Edmonton.

"We've had a few athletes with some bad luck and some poor showings, and it's really important for them to put together a really good performance this weekend so we can get them into [Canada West]," she said.

Also looking at this weekend's meet with a little more interest will be the University's pentathletes, as they'll get their first opportunity of the season to compete in their event (which is made up of shooting, fencing, swimming, riding and running), and the jumpers, who Reed has predicted will be the breakthrough surprise of her team.

"I'm really excited to see our pentathletes in action," she said. "They finally get to pull off a full pent, and it'll be good for them to gauge how they stand. The jumpers and the combined events haven't had a lot of opportunities to perform, and the jumpers are on the verge of some huge personal bests. It's just a minor foot fault or a poor takeoff looking them back, but I expect we'll see those little problems iron themselves out over the next couple weeks. Our sprinters are always strong, but I really believe our jumpers are on the verge of joining them."

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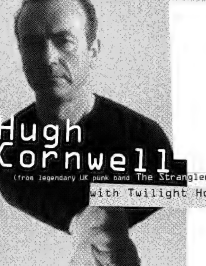
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## “Violence more serious than racist cartoons”: Réponse

OMAYRA A. ISSA  
Rédactrice

Ceci est une réponse à l'article/opinion de Chloé Fedio paru le mardi 7 février 2006 dans le Gateway.

Tout d'abord, qu'il me soit permis de relever la dernière phrase dudit article : « [...] the Muslim community should focus on promoting non-violence. [...] What we need is a greater outcry against the Almadinejad's of the world, and the muslim community should concentrate on that instead of twelve silly cartoons... » Ainsi, on affirme qu'il lieu de promouvoir une violence exacerbée, la « communauté musulmane » du monde devrait se concentrer sur une politique de non-violence et passer le cap des plaintes sur les douze portraits ridicules du prophète Muhammad (SAW).

Si je relève cette phrase, c'est bien parce que je ne la trouve guère anodine et qu'il m'en semble relever là une description un peu trop simpliste des événements qui embrassent les relations entre certaines composantes du monde arabe et le Danemark. En fait, l'on ne saurait, au contraire de Chloé Fedio, mettre tous les musulmans du monde sous le même qualificatif, si l'on était moins tendancieusement et informé de leurs différences. La communauté musulmane n'existe pas puisque même si certains ont du mal à le croire, les musulmans d'Afrique se différencient de ceux d'Asie et ces derniers de ceux du Moyen-

Orient ou des autres coins du monde. La diversité de ceux-ci qui ont pour religion l'islam est telle qu'il ne nous permet pas non plus d'assimiler les islamistes aux les musulmans, car non seulement le président iranien Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ne peut non seulement être synonyme d'islam, encore moins le porte-parole des musulmans du monde. C'est là une des erreurs essentielles que commettent les critiques sur l'espace où évolue les musulmans.

**L'on ne saurait mettre tous les musulmans du monde sous le même qualificatif si l'on était moins tendancieusement et informé de leurs différences.**

Ensuite, il conviendrait de rassurer l'auteur de l'article que la liberté d'expression dont elle ne peut se départir n'est nullement remise en cause lorsque des journalistes occidentaux arrêteront par leurs caricatures incendiaires en France, en Espagne, en Italie ou au Danemark. Au contraire, la démocratie occidentale est celle-là même qui promet le respect de l'autre, or ce tel geste nous permettrait justement de faire du dialogue de sourds qu'on a connu jusqu'à un vœu et mauvais souvenir. Or lorsque le premier ministre danois, Anders Fogh Rasmussen refuse

de s'excuser publiquement pour les délits de son compatriote et de reconnaître la dignité des musulmans, il va à l'encontre de ses principes démocratiques qu'il clame défendre.

Enfin, j'aurais voulu souligner que l'argument selon lequel l'islam n'est pas la seule religion contre laquelle des gens n'ont d'égard ne fait que perpétuer ce faux débat que je dénonce. Est-ce que c'est parce que les musulmans ne sont pas les premiers à être victimes de telles injures qu'ils devraient constater sans broncher ? Est-ce que c'est parce que cela s'est déjà passé que les uns et les autres devraient en rester là et ne point chercher à changer les mentalités, les mœurs et les institutions ? Il pour Chloé Fedio de conclure que la violence que démontrent les musulmans (et je souligne que ce sont pas tous les musulmans contrairement à ce qu'on veut nous faire croire) ne fait qu'attiser le feu déjà trop grand qui consume les occidentaux et les musulmans. C'est là ne pas reconnaître que la religion n'occupe pas une place similaire dans le quotidien et le vécu des gens qu'on se trouve à Edmonton ou à Québec. C'est là prêcher par une non-considération pour autrui. C'est là être nombriliste. Cette religion que l'on accuse à tort de professer violence, haine, intolérance est bien celle qui nous apprend que « The journey of the pilgrim is two steps and no more : one is the passing out of selfhood, and the one towards mystical Union with the Friend. »

ÉRIC VAILLANT  
Actualité

**Le Chili voit sa première présidente**

Michelle Bachelet est devenue, le 29 janvier dernier, la première femme à gouverner le Chili. À la tête de la coalition centre-gauche, elle a remporté les élections avec plus de 53 % des voix et ce, grâce à l'appui du vote des femmes qui pourtant votent traditionnellement à droite. C'est donc une grande victoire pour « La Michelle » qui souhaite notamment changer la situation encore difficile des chiliennes.

**En disant une femme à la tête de leur pays, les chiliens et chiliennes optent ainsi pour l'avenir.**

En effet, dans ce pays qui est l'un des plus conservateurs d'Amérique du Sud, l'avortement est toujours illégal et la loi sur le divorce n'est en vigueur que depuis deux ans. Qui plus est, selon Claire Martin (RF), « une femme sur deux serait victime de violences conjugales ». En disant une femme à la tête de leur pays, les chiliens et chiliennes optent ainsi pour l'avenir, laissant derrière eux le fantôme d'Augusto Pinochet.

**Les Français gagnent en hauteur et en largeur**

Une enquête récente des changements morphologiques chez les Français, ce qui amène les industriels à revoir certaines mesures...

Une vaste enquête menée par l'Union Française des Industries de l'Habillement (UFIH) démontre qu'au cours des trente dernières années, les Français ont non seulement grossi (la tendance est mondiale) mais aussi grandi. Les résultats de cette enquête pour le moins gargantuesque (12 000 personnes) nous informent que les Français ont en moyenne gagné quatre-vingt centimètres et trois kilogrammes pour ce qui est des femmes et cinq centimètres et cinq kilogrammes pour ce qui est des hommes. Dominique Raizon (RF) précise qu'en 2006, « la Française moyenne mesure 162,5 cm pour 62,4 kg (contre 160,4 cm pour 60,6 kg en 1970), et le Français : 175,6 cm pour 77,4 kg (contre 170,1 cm pour 72,0 kg en 1970) ». Selon cette même étude, il y aurait 26 % des Français en surpoids dont 8 % serait carrément ou plutôt rotondement obèse.

En réaction à ces chiffres, les industries extérieures reviennent certains de leurs standards de hautes en large.

D'abord, des industriels du prêt-à-porter envisagent de modifier les standards de la taille faisant ainsi passer un 38 pour un 36. « Personne ne doit se sentir irrité, marginalisé, s'il ne se coule pas parfaitement dans le moule des tailles offertes » affirme le président du salon de Prêt à Porter Paris, Jean-Pierre Mocho. Le président ne précise cependant pas si la taille 0 deviendra la taille - 2. Mais à part l'industrie du spandex qui négocie mieux les courbes, l'industrie du meuble pense aussi à revoir certaines de ces normes d'ameublement. Ainsi, cette industrie prévoit agrandir, élargir et renforcer les chaises, les fauteuils et les lits ainsi que d'autres meubles, afin de se plier aux nouvelles exigences du marché. Il en est de même pour le transport en commun qui lui a une longueur d'avance puisqu'en fait les opinions exprimées dans les articles sont celles des auteurs et ne représentent pas nécessairement les opinions du Miroir.

Questions ou commentaires? Écrivez-nous à [mirroi.uofa@gmail.com](mailto:mirroi.uofa@gmail.com)!

## Une solution estivale parfaite pour les universitaires blasés

CHRISTINE MAGEAU  
Chronique étudiante

C'est déjà le début de février et je sais que plusieurs d'entre vous demandez ce que vous allez faire cet été. Vous avez plusieurs choix : vous pourriez travailler pour le salaire minimum quelque part à West Edmonton Mall, vous pourriez ne pas travailler du tout et dormir tous les jours jusqu'à midi, ou bien vous pourriez prendre des cours d'été! Mais aucun des choix n'ayant l'air intéressant, je vous propose quelque chose d'extraordinaire, qui inclut «fun», éducation et aventure dans le même beau paquet : le programme Explore.

Explore est un programme créé pour les étudiants universitaires qui souhaitent amélio-

rer, ou bien apprendre pour la première fois, le français ou l'anglais. Les étudiants ont le choix parmi plusieurs universités à travers le Canada. Le programme vise à améliorer le français des étudiants de deux façons, le premier étant l'enseignement formelle dans la salle de classe. Les étudiants passent presque 20 heures chaque semaine dans la salle de classe et apprennent la grammaire, le vocabulaire et tous les aspects du français qu'on aime tellement. Aussi, une grande partie du programme est vouée à l'amélioration du français oral. Il y a plusieurs exercices oraux et audio-visuels pour que les étudiants puissent mieux comprendre et mieux parler français. Ce fait qu'on puisse prendre certains de ces cours au Campus Saint-Jean ou à l'Université de l'Alberta, il y a un aspect crucial du programme

qui est très difficile à trouver ailleurs : les activités du programme se déroulent dans un environnement unilingue français. Bien qu'on puisse trouver cet environnement au Campus Saint-Jean, une grande partie des étudiants ne parlent pas français du tout pendant l'été! Même pendant l'année scolaire, on entend souvent parler anglais dans les corridors du Campus et une fois à la maison, l'anglais devient notre seule langue de communication.

Le programme Explore tente d'éliminer cette tendance, et force les étudiants à parler français en tout temps (si non on peut être renvoyé à la maison). C'est bien difficile de le faire, mais vous ne le regretterez pas et il est certain que vos professeurs de français seront très fiers de vous.

VOIR EXPLORE • PAGE 24

## Le transport en commun à Edmonton : un cas spécial

RACHEL BARTHÉLÉMY  
Opinion

Le transport en commun au Canada, et surtout dans les grandes villes, est-il efficace? Ici, nous se trouve être le sujet d'opinions et de commentaires à ce propos en ce moment.

ETS, LRT, sont les services actuels de transport en commun qu'utilisent les citoyens de cette ville. On a pu se rendre compte de la facilité avec laquelle les citoyens de cette ville voyagent. Alors, on pourrait se demander si c'est le service qui si bien fait et, si tel est le cas, s'il est à la portée et aux services de tous?

Ce qui nous frappe quand on fait référence à ce sujet depuis plusieurs années, ce sont bel et bien les faciles moyens d'accès des passagers à ces services-là. Est-ce que c'est là, pour les responsables politiques, une question de confi-

ance et d'intégrité vis-à-vis des citoyens et vice versa?

On constate que les citoyens ou passagers du LRT & du ETS rentrent sans problèmes dans les services de LRT sans aucune vérification ni de leurs billets, encore moins de leurs identités, alors qu'on peut lire dans chaque station de train: LRT, Entering, proof of payment area. Ce qui signifie dans notre langage que «vous entrez ici, vous avez payé». Bizarre, non? Qui qu'on peut nous montrer cette preuve ou la vérifier? On peut de cette façon, sortir de n'importe où, sans prendre le bus (ETS) ou on doit obligatoirement avoir un billet, et monter dans le train (LRT) sans avoir ce billet ou le transit délivré par le bus (ETS). Sans aucun agent ou arrêts/postes de contrôle pour vérifier ces billets, les fameuses preuves de paiement, et une voie libre qui nous dit «on est ici c'est parce qu'on a payé...» qui peut prétendre le

contraire? Personne.

Comparée à d'autres villes du Canada, telles que Montréal, Québec et Toronto, où des agents et des postes de contrôle sont établis, et où sans vérification, sans billets, personne ne peut passer, la ville d'Edmonton est bien particulière. Pas de «Entering, proof of payment area, mais une présence de ces postes de contrôle qui définit que vous ne passez, que si vous payez. Est-ce que la différence se situe au niveau des citoyens ou des gouvernements? Est-ce que les citoyens d'Edmonton sont plus intégrés, honnêtes ou fiables que les autres? Est-ce que c'est la municipalité d'Edmonton qui fait confiance beaucoup plus que les autres à ses citoyens? Est-ce que c'est une politique de survie? Est-ce que cette politique est louable?

On ne sait pas encore, on se questionne. L'avenir nous fera part de la suite.

## LE MIROIR

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rédactrice en chef

Omayra A. Issa

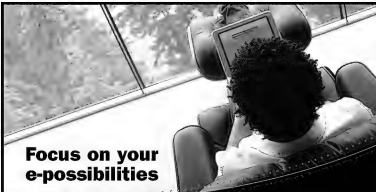
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Toby (Kevin Zegers) et Bree (Felicity Huffman) lors d'un moment tendu entre parent et fils dans *Transamerica*.

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## Transamerica: Une virée hors des sentiers battus

ROMAIN CHARÉTYRON  
Arts & Spectacles

L'une des affiches du film *Transamerica*, première œuvre du réalisateur Duncan Tucker, nous montre Bree, le personnage principal, vue de dos, faisant face à des toilettes publiques, ne sachant si elle doit se rendre dans celles destinées aux hommes ou bien celles destinées aux femmes. Illustration parfaite afin de nous indiquer que nous nous trouvons ici à la croisée des chemins et des destins. Le film nous montre en effet le voyage, aussi bien sur le plan géographique que sur le plan psychologique, de Bree (interprétée par Felicity Huffman), transsexuelle à une semaine de son intervention chirurgicale qui fera d'elle « une vraie femme » comme elle se plaît à le dire. La raison d'un tel voyage ? Un appel qui la ramène brutalement à un passé qu'elle aimerait avoir oublié, à savoir, qu'autrefois Bree se nommait Stanley et, surprise ultime, qu'elle a un fils, ce dernier ignorant tout de la situation. Après de nombreuses hésitations, Bree décide de faire le trajet de la Californie jusqu'à New York afin d'aller libérer son fils, qui a été arrêté pour prostitution et usage de drogue. Un voyage éclair afin de soulager sa conscience pour retourner ensuite à sa vie quotidienne... mais rien ne va se dérouler de manière aussi simple.

C'est donc à un road movie iconoclaste que nous invite le film et, à l'image des protagonistes qui s'aventurent sur les routes peu fréquentées de l'Amérique rurale. Le film choisit, lui aussi, de prendre les chemins de traverse pour brasser, mine de rien, des sujets tels que la transsexualité, l'acceptation de soi, à travers son propre regard ou celui des autres, ou bien encore le heurt de la différence au puritanisme bien-pensant d'une

certaine Amérique.

Ce qui fait toute la saveur et la force de ce film, c'est que ce dernier parvient à nous faire ressentir le caractère changeant des choses et des êtres, allant contre l'idée que tout soit fixé ou figé d'avance. Tout ici est en perpétuel changement, les paysages, les personnages et les mentalités. Comme je l'ai mentionné auparavant, le film suit Bree une semaine avant son opération qui la fera passer légalement, mais aussi biologiquement, du statut d'homme à celui de femme. Le personnage se trouve donc dans une période de transition, et cela va affecter l'intégralité du film et devenir ce sur quoi se base toute la trame narrative. Au fil du voyage, Bree et son fils (Graham Greene) vont lentement apprendre à s'apprivoiser, à s'accepter, et finalement, peut-être même à s'aimer. Bree trouvera également le courage d'affronter ses parents, dont l'incompréhension initiale laissera peu à peu place à une certaine forme de tendresse pour cette personne qu'ils ne comprennent pas forcément mais qui reste néanmoins leur enfant.

L'idée de filiation est également au cœur du film, et ce dernier n'hésite pas à la pousser à l'extrême, donnant lieu à des situations pour le moins scabreuses, puisque le fils de Bree, ignorant tout de la situation, tentera de coucher avec elle. Cependant, ce qui perce derrière ces situations, c'est le besoin d'être aimé pour ce que l'on est et de parvenir à trouver dans les yeux de l'autre quelque chose qui vous fasse sentir vivant. C'est dans ces moments-là que l'on touche au cœur du film, lorsque Tucker nous indique que le bonheur peut être aussi simple et fugace qu'un air de guitare joué la nuit sous un porche, ou bien des conversations sur des petits riens entre un parent et son fils, dans une

voiture, au soleil couchant. Ces petits riens ne sont-ils pas d'ailleurs le sel de l'existence?

**Ce qui fait toute la saveur et la force de ce film, c'est que ce dernier parvient à nous faire ressentir le caractère changeant des choses et des êtres, allant contre l'idée que tout soit fixé ou figé d'avance.**

Si l'on peut parfois reprocher au film de tomber dans certains lieux communs (la représentation de la famille de Bree, par exemple, qui peut parfois sembler un peu excessive), il faut reconnaître un réel désir de bousculer certaines conventions, et le parti pris de la comédie douce-amère permet de ne jamais sombrer dans un pathos qui, au regard des thèmes abordés, aurait été des plus mal venus.

En conclusion, on peut dire que, à l'image des vies qu'il nous montre, le film est parfois imparfait, mais c'est cette imperfection qui en fait tout le charme et l'intérêt. Et surtout, le film nous donne à voir des personnages de chair et de sang qui se heurtent à la vie et qui, malgré leurs erreurs et leurs échecs continuent d'avancer, espérant que le meilleur reste à venir. Bref, un film avec des personnages malmenés, mais qui battent, qui battent...

*Transamerica* est présentement à l'affiche au Princess Theatre (10337 - 82e avenue)

## J'explore: Un programme rempli d'options

J'EXPLORE: SUITE DE LA PAGE 23

On peut prendre des cours de français et pratiquer le français dans un contexte non-scolaire. Pour plusieurs autres raisons, l'on pourrait à raison s'inscrire à ce programme. D'abord, il se déroule sur cinq semaines, ce qui est un temps assez long. Il faut aussi noter que vous pourrez encore travailler et gagner de l'argent pendant l'été sans avoir à trop travailler ni à passer tout votre été au sein de votre famille. En plus, le programme se déroule du lundi au

vendredi, ce qui laisse les fins de semaine pour la fête. Pour ceux et celles qui aiment prendre seulement quatre cours chaque semestre : le programme vous fait gagner six crédits universitaires, qui sont transférables (à moins que vous échouiez le cours)! Finalement, le programme est gratuit: le gouvernement envoie une bourse de près de 1900\$ à l'université. La bourse paie votre résidence (vous resterez soit avec une famille soit à la résidence de l'université), et vous donne de l'argent (cash) pour vos

repas (autour de 100\$/semaine).

J'ai participé au programme avec quatre autres amis à l'Université de Montréal cet été. Nous avons fêté presque tous les loisirs en apprenant le français et la culture Québécoise en même temps. C'est une expérience dont je me souviendrai toujours et j'encourage tous ceux et celles qui seraient moins intéressés à le faire. Les formulaires de demande sont disponibles à [www.jexplore.ca](http://www.jexplore.ca). Ils sont à remettre au plus tard le 28 février alors dépêchez-vous!

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Perfect for ed students! Childcare center near U of A requires enthusiastic PT staff, \$8.50 starting, 7-9:30am, 3-5:45pm or Thurs 12-5:45pm. Call 434-7754 or 905-9465.

Great Day Job! Op asst. SUBmart, needed. MTHF 10am-3pm, TW 9am-3pm. \$10.40/hr. [www.sualberta.ca/jobs](http://www.sualberta.ca/jobs).

Boys & Girls Clubs needs childcare providers for 0-7yr-olds while parents are in a meeting. 3 hrs/wk. In West Edm (each Tues 9:30am-12:30pm) or in North Cent Edm (each Monday 5:30-8:30pm). Call 481-1235 or send resume to [rlberg@gcgc.ca](mailto:rlberg@gcgc.ca). Police and child welfare checks required before hire.

### EMPLOYMENT - TEMPORARY

Piano/Voice/Guitar instructors required for busy music school. Please fax your resumé 464-4547 or e-mail [lessons@pianotations.com](mailto:lessons@pianotations.com).

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Make a world of difference! Volunteer

overseas with Youth Challenge International on a hands-on development project for 5-12 weeks. Ready to go next month? Next summer? Visit [www.yci.org](http://www.yci.org) to find more!

### PERSONALS

It's Party Time! Dial: 44-PARTY Ads. Jokes, stories and MORE! Free Local Call. 18+ Ladies always free! Guys from schmutz! 1st time callers get free trial with ad code: 4285. Meet new people... make new friends. Try it NOW! 780-44-PARTY.

MaF: Fishing, if you would like to try. Write me.

Anyone interested in a prison penpal? My brother has found himself doing time for the next 18 months. Unfortunately, he has no friends or family down there to visit him. His only way of communicating is by writing letters so he's looking for some penpals to help him

pass the time, preferably w/ females around his age. 18-26 (he's 23). If you'd at all be interested in writing to him, please let me know, and I'll e-mail you his address. He's basically a good kid just trying to find his way. He's Thanks! E-mail [pers-13207009@icraigslong.com](mailto:pers-13207009@icraigslong.com)

"Allie" seeking Her "Noah." If you saw the movie The Notebook and it tugged at your heart strings even a little bit, we may get along. If you have NOT seen it, I urge you to! It teaches such great lessons about life and love. I want so much to believe that I might be lucky enough to find a true and lasting friendship such as the one Noah and Allie shared until the day death did them part. Can such relationships still be cultivated and nurtured in this modern day and age? Or are such relationships a thing of the past? E-mail [rededastic@hotmail.com](mailto:rededastic@hotmail.com).

MaF: Fishing, if you would like to try. Write me.



## ARIZONA

# Steak & Pizza

**FREE CASHOWE DELIVERY - LICENSED**

**PLEASE ASK ABOUT OUR OTHER MENU ITEMS**

**OPEN 10AM - 6AM**

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>3 Medium 10" Pizzas</b><br>with 3 toppings<br><b>FREE WINGS or 2L POP</b><br><b>\$20.95</b> | <b>3 Large 12" Pizzas</b><br>with 3 toppings<br><b>FREE WINGS or 2L POP</b><br><b>\$23.95</b> | <b>3 X-Large 14" Pizzas</b><br>with 3 toppings<br><b>FREE WINGS or 2L POP</b><br><b>\$29.95</b> |
| <b>2 Medium 10" Pizzas</b><br>with 3 toppings<br><b>FREE WINGS or 2L POP</b><br><b>\$15.95</b> | <b>2 Large 12" Pizzas</b><br>with 3 toppings<br><b>FREE WINGS or 2L POP</b><br><b>\$19.95</b> | <b>2 X-Large 14" Pizzas</b><br>with 3 toppings<br><b>FREE WINGS or 2L POP</b><br><b>\$23.95</b> |
| <b>1 Medium 10" Pizza</b><br>with 2 toppings<br><b>FREE WINGS or 2L POP</b><br><b>\$11.95</b>  | <b>1 Large 12" Pizza</b><br>with 2 toppings<br><b>FREE WINGS or 2L POP</b><br><b>\$12.95</b>  | <b>1 X-Large 14" Pizza</b><br>with 2 toppings<br><b>FREE WINGS or 2L POP</b><br><b>\$13.95</b>  |

|                                     |                                   |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>SOUTHSIDE</b><br><b>426-5429</b> | <b>WESTEND</b><br><b>423-3844</b> | <b>NORTHSIDE</b><br><b>424-7106</b> | <b>DOWNTOWN</b><br><b>428-7554</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|



## Working in the USA is easier than you think.

Whether it's working at a beach resort or holding a big city job, SWAP USA\* can turn your summer into an experience of a lifetime!

**WHY SWAP?**

- Enhance your resume with foreign work experience
- Flexible 4-month-3-1 visa - you choose when it begins!
- Secure travel: toll-free assistance and emergency support
- Online jobs
- Have a great time and make new friends

Visit [www.swap.ca](http://www.swap.ca) for your SWAP USA registration pack.



**Students' Union Building**  
492 - 2592

SWAP | Working Holidays

SWAP IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT PROGRAM OF THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS.  
\* To be eligible you must be a full-time student returning to full-time studies in the fall.

# GOT TALENT

## STUDENT LEADERS WANTED

### NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

President, Vice Presidents, Board of Governor Representative

Deadline February 16<sup>th</sup> 17:00

SU and GFC Councillors

Deadline March 14<sup>th</sup> 17:00

NOMINATION PACKAGES AVAILABLE AT 2-900 SUB



**vote**

su elections march 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>

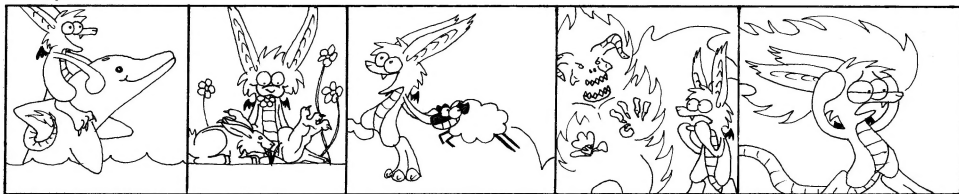
[www.su.ualberta.ca/vote](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/vote)

## University of Alberta Students' Union Elections 2006





BITTEN by Robin Sissons



THE BLOWIE SHOW by Chris Jung



PROLUX TACT by Paul Cartledge &amp; Mylora Perea



# Notice of Plebiscites

Students will vote on the following non-binding plebiscite questions on the ballot in the March 8 and 9 Students' Union Election:

1

Do you support the establishment of a non-instructional fee, levied by the University of Alberta, subject to the following conditions?

1. The fee would be dedicated to the construction of a new Physical Activity Complex (PAC) as well as concurrent upgrades to the Van Vleet Physical Education and Recreation Centre.
2. The fee would be assessed to each undergraduate student at
  - a) \$20.00 per Fall or Winter term;
  - b) \$10.00 per Spring or Summer term, to
  - c) a maximum of \$40.00 in a twelve-month period
3. The fee would provide unrestricted use of the Fitness and Lifestyle Centre\* during its hours of operation to each undergraduate student who
  - a) is currently paying the fee; or
  - b) has already paid the fee for eight consecutive months within the twelve-month period
4. The fee would be assessed
  - a) once the Fitness and Lifestyle Centre\* is fully operational; and
  - b) for 30 years or until the costs incurred in (1) have been recovered, whichever occurs first
5. Undergraduate students would be unable to alter or rescind the fee

\* Fitness and Lifestyle Centre would contain fitness equipment including cardiovascular equipment, free weights, and resistance training machines.

2

Do you support a campus-wide tobacco ban at the University of Alberta subject to the following conditions?

1. A ban on the sale of all tobacco products in any University-owned or leased building or on University property effective July 1, 2006
2. A ban on the use of all tobacco products in any University-owned or leased building or on University property, except property surrounding residences, effective July 1, 2006
3. A ban on the use of all tobacco products on all University property effective July 1, 2008
4. Exceptions may be made to accommodate the use of tobacco or related substances in connection with culturally significant celebrations

If you would like to register as part of the YES or NO campaign for either of these plebiscite questions you must attend the upcoming Candidates Meeting. The Candidates Meeting will be held on Thursday February 16 at 6PM on the 3rd Floor of SUB.

For more information about how to register a plebiscite side, please email the Chief Returning Officer at [cro@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:cro@su.ualberta.ca)

**vute**  
su elections march 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>  
[WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA/VOTE](http://WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA/VOTE)

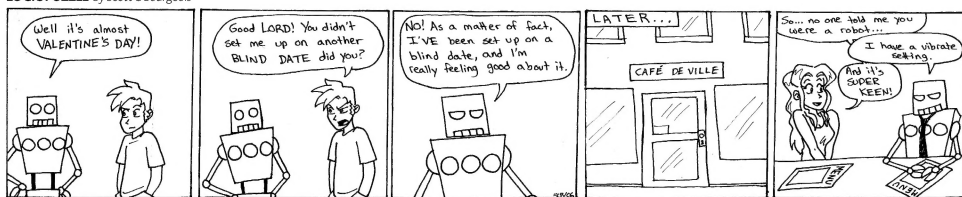
## EVERYDAY OSAMA by Iris Tse &amp; Chris O'Leary



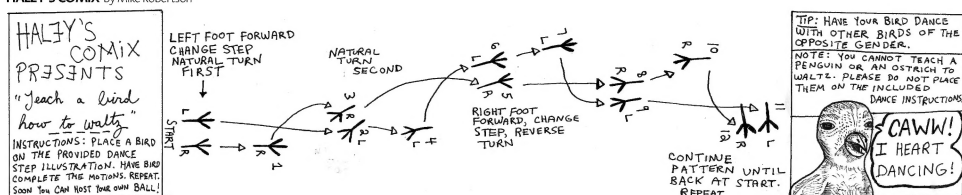
## APPROPRIUM by Curtis Van Marck



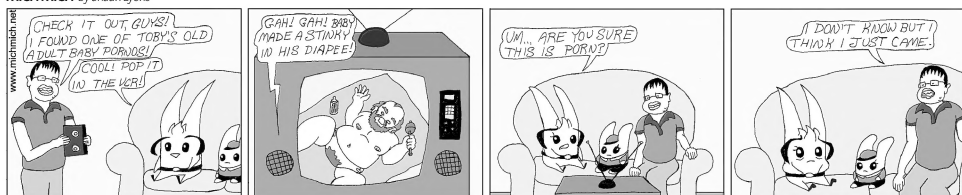
## LOGIC PUZZLE by Scott C Bourgeois



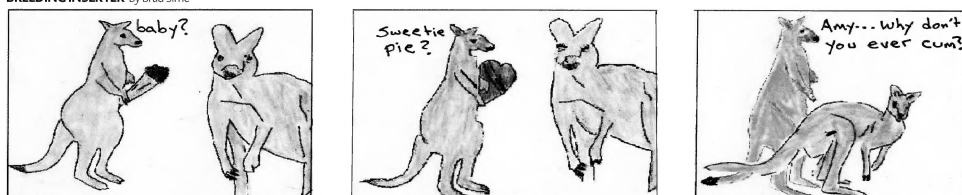
## HALEY'S COMIX by Mike Robertson



## MICH MICH by Shaun Lyons



## BREEDING INSERTER by Brad Sime



# THE MATH AND APPLIED SCIENCES CENTRE

IS OFFERING

## MIDTERM EXAM REVIEWS

WITH

**CARMEN & MARKUS**



**Math** 101, 102, 113/114, 115,  
120/125, 201, 209

**Chem** 102/105, 263

**Stat** 141, 151, 235

**EnPh** 131

**Engg** 130

**EnComp** 100

**Phys** 230

**Bio** 107

**Ε Ε** 239

**Chem Ε** 243



$$e^{\pi i} = -1$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \sqrt{2\pi}$$

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}$$

**Length:** 3 hrs

**Fee:** \$30

(includes 3 hour review and review package with solutions)

### Registration:

9:00-3:00 daily in

Room 126 Chemical-Materials Engineering

on the following days:

Wednesday-Friday, February 8-10

Monday-Friday, February 13-17

Monday-Wednesday, February 27-March 1

## Carmen & Markus

492-6272 / [masc@ualberta.ca](mailto:masc@ualberta.ca)

**Schedule:** [www.ualberta.ca/~masc](http://www.ualberta.ca/~masc)